

Hanoi claims 1,500 Chinese killed

BANGKOK (R) — Vietnam, claiming to have killed 1,500 Chinese soldiers in border battles this week, told its army to be alert for possible new attacks. Hanoi Radio, in a broadcast monitored here, implied that Chinese attacks along the 1,400 kilometre frontier were linked to Peking's support for guerrillas fighting the pro-Vietnam government in Kampuchea. "The front-line forces, already vigilant, must be even more so in the days ahead," it said in a commentary. "While our government is clearly showing its goodwill and desire for peace and friendship with the Chinese people, the Chinese authorities have conducted serious acts of war against Vietnam on the Sino-Vietnamese border," it said. It renewed calls for restoration of normal relations so Vietnam could concentrate on development of its troubled economy.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Arab Press Foundation
جورديان تايمز يومية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية والراية

Arab committee to visit Syria

TUNIS, Tunisia (AP) — The special Arab League committee of foreign ministers, created during a meeting last month to mediate the war between Shi'ite Muslim militiamen and Palestinians in Lebanese camps, will go to Damascus next week, the Arab League said Friday. The committee, led by Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmad Taleb Ibrahimi and Arab League Secretary General Chadi Klibi, was scheduled to travel to Syria on Monday. It was to go on to Beirut before returning to the Tunisian capital to present its results to the League's Council of Ministers on Wednesday. Palestine Liberation Organisation sources said the committee would be carrying "concrete propositions" formulated by the PLO for ending the fighting which has been going on for the past three months between Palestinian fighters and members of the Amal militia.

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Sikh gunmen kill 10 in Punjab

CHANDIGARH, India (R) — Sikh extremists gunned down a government party worker they suspected of being a police informer along with six of his family in the bloodiest day of violence in northern Punjab state in weeks, police said Friday. Gunmen shot dead Gurmej Singh, a member of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress (I) Party, his wife, four children and another relative late Thursday near the Sikh holy city of Amritsar. The extremists also shot dead three farm labourers in a separate attack in the same area Thursday, police said.

5 killed in U.S. helicopter crash

BRAWLEY, California (AP) — A Marine Corps helicopter practising night landings crashed and burst into flames, killing all five crew members, officials said Friday. The crash at the Salton Sea test range was the latest accident involving the CH-53E Super Stallion. The huge, dragonfly-like aircraft is the military's most powerful and expensive helicopter. The chopper was approaching the landing zone during a troop deployment exercise late Thursday when it crashed 240 kilometres south east of Los Angeles, said Maj. Anthony Rothford, a Marine Corps spokesman at the Pentagon.

Reagan names deputy counsel

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Ronald Reagan on Friday appointed Charles N. Brower, a judge of the Iran-United States Claims Tribunal in The Hague, Netherlands, as deputy to the White House special counsellor dealing with the Iran-contra scandal. Brower, 51, has been a member of the tribunal since 1984.

Shultz arrives in Cameroon

DOUALA, Cameroon (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz is heartened by the Chadian forces' recent victory over Libyan troops, officials travelling with the secretary said Friday. Mr. Shultz, who arrived Friday in Douala from Dakar, Senegal, was greeted at the airport by hundreds of Cameroon President Paul Biya's supporters, who chanted and applauded rhythmically as the secretary made his way to the terminal building. Many wore clothes bearing large pictures of Biya.

Pretoria blames ANC for Johannesburg blast

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South Africa accused the African National Congress (ANC) guerrilla movement of planting a bomb which ripped through an eight-storey department store in central Johannesburg Friday, seconds after hundreds of shoppers had been evacuated. Police at the scene said scores of casualties were prevented by an alert security guard who spotted the limpet mine in a plastic bag less than 10 minutes before the huge blast rocked the country's biggest shopping district.

Iraq says major part of 4 Iranian divisions wiped out

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq said Friday it had wiped out the major part of four Iranian divisions and a commando force which launched an overnight drive towards its southern port of Basra.

An Iraqi High Command communiqué said the attacking force was crushed along the fronts of four Iraqi brigades east of Basra, but fighting continued on the fronts of two other brigades, where the Iraqis had seized Iraqi territory.

The official Iraqi News Agency INA quoted a military source as saying: "What is happening now is the liquidation of some pockets to inflict further losses."

The communiqué, the only one issued by Iraq on latest Gulf war fighting in more than six hours, said: "Enemy forces were pushed and destroyed in almost all the areas where they established a foothold."

It said large numbers of Iraqis had been captured, while INA quoted a correspondent as saying

Iraqi waters.

The war communiqué, broadcast after state-owned radio and television interrupted regular programmes, described the Iranian offensive as a "desperate attempt which will only end with complete failure."

Iraq beat back a previous Iranian offensive in the same area across the Shatt Al Arab waterway in two days of fierce fighting two weeks ago.

President Saddam Hussein said earlier this week that the Iranian objective was to besiege and occupy Basra so that Tehran could set up a hireling regime there.

His Majesty King Hussein returned to Amman on Thursday at the end of a two-day visit to Baghdad where he held talks with President Saddam Hussein and senior Iraqi government officials on the developments along the Iraq-Iran battlefield.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said that the King was briefed on Iraqi successes in the recent battles east of Basra in which the Iraqi Armed Forces

repelled an Iranian offensive in southern Iraq.

Meanwhile, Iran said its troops seized a bridgehead of the western bank of the fast-flowing channel, the southern border between the two warring nations, in a pre-dawn offensive codenamed Karbala-5.

Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), also monitored in Nicosia, said Karbala-5 was launched at 1 a.m. (2130 GMT Thursday) in the Shalamcheh region 35 kilometres south east of Basra.

IRNA later reported that the Iranians launched a second thrust 70 kilometres north in the marshlands of the Kusk region.

The Iraqi communiqué made no mention of fighting in the Kusk region.

In Moscow, the Soviet government issued a strong appeal to Iran and Iraq Thursday "to show common sense" and end the Gulf war which, it said, benefited only forces of imperialism such as the United States.

4 killed, 1 missing in Israeli raid on S. Lebanon

MAGHDUSHEH, Lebanon (AP) — Six Israeli warplanes rocketed Palestinian positions Friday in this Christian town in South Lebanon, killing four commandos and damaging a Greek Catholic Church.

Another commando was listed as missing and eight were wounded in the 10-minute raid at 9:20 a.m. (0720 GMT), police said. Thick black smoke billowed from the stricken positions.

The front of Virgin Mary Church was reduced to rubble by direct rocket hits, which also destroyed a missionary primary school operated by the Greek Catholic Church.

The local commander in Mr. Yasser Arafat's mainstream Fatah faction of the Palestine Liberation Organisation said at least 11 rockets were fired at the church.

"I cannot understand why the Israelis rocketed the church," said the commander, known by the nom de guerre of Youssef. "We don't have any presence in such a sacred place."

However, Youssef conceded that his commandos manned positions opposite the church.

The towering statue of the Virgin Mary that overlooks the church and the school was not hit. But several commando positions below the statue were blasted.

In Tel Aviv, the Israeli military command said its pilots reported good hits and returned safely from the raid, 35 kilometres north of the Israeli border.

More than 36 rockets were fired from the raiding Israeli fighter-bombers in three sorties on the town and its environs. Commandos put up a screen of shoulder-fired SA-7 Soviet-made ground-to-air missiles, but all missed.

He gave no details of their discussions, but the newspaper As Sahab reported that the talks had been expected to concern Egypt's efforts to patch up differences between Jordan and the PLO following the suspension of a PLO-Jordan accord last year.

The paper said Dr. Baz was accompanied by Saeed Kamel, a member of the Palestine National Council (PNC), and topics of the talks were also to include the "camps war" in Lebanon and an Islamic summit due to be held in Kuwait this month.

Tunisia, like other Arab countries, severed diplomatic relations with Egypt in 1979 after its peace treaty with Israel. High-level Tunisian-Egyptian contacts are treated with discretion by the official press.

Mr. Arafat is also expected to see Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, who was expected to arrive Friday night on a two-day official visit, after his talks with Tunisian leaders, Mr. Abdelrahman said.

Mr. Arafat left Tunis last September when PLO-Tunisian relations became strained because of a PLO link with a foiled bomb attack in Morocco.

The document sets out the Israelis' purported desire to proceed with the secret plan.

It also added the Israelis "are also sensitive to a strong U.S. desire to free our Beirut hostages and have insisted that the Iraqis demonstrate both influence and good intent by an early release of the five Americans."

"Both sides have agreed that the hostages will be immediately released upon commencement of this action," it said.

In Brussels, Belgium, Foreign Minister Leo Tindemans, president of the European Community's decision-making Council of Ministers, said Friday the U.S. role in the Middle East should be reviewed in the wake of secret arms sales to Iran.

Mr. Tindemans told a news conference that Europeans are wondering "has the U.S. prestige or influence suffered and is its credibility still intact?" Later he said, "We have to have the courage to examine this" and analyse the "possible political consequences."

Beirut airport closes after renewed shelling

BEIRUT (R) — Beirut airport was closed again Friday after about 12 shells rained in as an airliner was landing with 126 people aboard, a Middle East Airlines (MEA) spokesman said. Beirut Radio said one worker at the opposition-controlled airport was wounded by shells from the "eastern region" — an apparent reference to Christian east Beirut.

The Boeing 720 airliner was undamaged and none of the 102 passengers or 24 crew were hurt, the MEA spokesman said.

"All air traffic operations will be suspended until further notice," the spokesman added.

The shelling triggered artillery exchanges over the "green line" separating eastern and western parts near the airport south of Beirut, local radios said.

The flight from Lamaca was the first after the airport was closed for 30 hours following an hour-long bombardment Thursday that wrecked an MEA Boeing 707.

MEA had announced the airport's reopening "after intensive contacts and with the agreement of official parties."

Charges and counter charges

flew over Thursday's incident and reopened a controversy over Falangist efforts to find a safe means of international travel.

The Shi'ite Muslim Amal militia controlling the airport blamed the Falangists for Thursday's shelling. Opposition sources said the attack was a signal of frustration.

The Lebanese Forces militia of right-wing Falangists denied that it was responsible, saying that it wanted to "open a new airport, not destroy one that already existed."

At issue is a stretch of deserted highway north of Lebanon's divided capital. Known as "Halat Airport," the three-kilometre long and 60-metre wide strip is a base for the tiny Lebanese Air Force's ageing Hawker Hunters.

Falangist leaders say they want to use it to provide a secure route to the outside world for several hundred thousand people living in the 40 by 20 kilometre Falangist enclave.

Beirut airport has been closed for security reasons for extended periods in the past. Only MEA (Middle East Airlines) and some East European airlines now have flights there.

Israel detains Palestinian journalist in West Bank

TEL AVIV (R) — A Palestinian newspaperman who once served a long jail term as a convicted anti-Israeli guerrilla was arrested Thursday night and placed in administrative detention without trial for six months, Palestinian sources said Friday.

Army sources confirmed the arrest of Lu'ail Abdo, 31, a correspondent in the occupied West Bank town of Nablus for the nationalist daily Al Fajr.

By carrying out administrative detention orders the Israelis allow themselves to hold Palestinians without charge or trial at the request of security authorities.

About two dozen West Bank inhabitants are currently held under such orders, usually served when authorities feel a court trial would reveal the names of informers, who led to the detainees' arrests.

On Thursday an explosive charge planted under a car in a central Israeli town blew up, destroying the vehicle but causing no injuries, police said. They said a few suspects were detained after the explosion in the town of Kiryat Malachi, south of Tel Aviv.

Police said they sealed the homes of three alleged Palestinian commandos in the Shuafat refugee camp near Jerusalem. The Palestinians are suspected of throwing petrol bombs and hand grenades at Jewish targets.

Meanwhile hundreds of Palestinian students held a defiant demonstration in the Israeli-occupied West Bank Thursday to mark the 22nd anniversary of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Waving banned Palestinian flags and pictures of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, the students chanted nationalist slogans and gave V-for-victory signs at Birzeit University, near the West Bank town of Ramallah.

Many of the demonstrators wore black-and-white checked Keffiyehs to mask their faces.

Israeli troops stayed clear of the area and did not intervene.

On Dec. 4, Israeli soldiers shot and killed two students at the university during anti-Israeli protests. Their deaths touched off the worst wave of violence in the West Bank in years.

Israeli occupation authorities then closed one of Birzeit's two campuses until the New Year. The closure and winter holidays postponed the PLO anniversary celebration, usually held on Jan. 1, until Thursday.

Soviets favour continued dialogue with Washington

LONDON (AP) — A leading Kremlin spokesman said Friday Moscow wants to continue the Soviet-American dialogue, provided it isn't "fruitless and inert."

Leonid Zamyatin, Soviet ambassador to Britain and a member of the Communist Party Central Committee, repeated at a news conference Soviet arms control proposals presented at the Reykjavik superpower summit in October.

The summit collapsed when U.S. President Ronald Reagan refused to accept the restrictions on his Star Wars space defence system demanded by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Asked if the Soviet Union favoured a new summit, Mr. Zamyatin said: "The Soviet Union is in favour of the continuation of the Soviet-American political dialogue... Our contacts, however, should not be fruitless and inert. We believe they should acquire real dynamism... become real talks on reducing nuclear arms and prevention of an arms race in outer space."

Mr. Zamyatin said: "We pressed for this last year and we shall press for it still more vigorously in 1987." He did not specifically mention a new summit, which Washington has said it still wants.

Mr. Reagan and Mr. Gorbachev reached preliminary agreement on a number of nuclear arms proposals before the summit founded on Star Wars, or the Strategic Defence Initiative

(SDI). Since the Reykjavik summit, the Soviet Union has insisted that the package agreed to then, linked to a Star Wars ban, must remain intact.

Asked what would happen if Mr. Reagan would not back down on Star Wars, Mr. Zamyatin said, "We will have to continue to talk. There is no (other) way out."

Mr. Zamyatin said the Soviet Union saw Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's visit to Moscow next spring as an event "of great importance."

Mr. Zamyatin was asked if the Kremlin thought Mrs. Thatcher would put "more pressure on the Americans to modify their position" and break the arms control deadlock.

After hesitating, Mr. Zamyatin said: "The talks with Mrs. Thatcher would be very useful even for that... aspect."

But he rejected the arms control priorities list drawn up by Mrs. Thatcher and Mr. Reagan at Camp David in November, and adopted in December by the 16-member NATO alliance.

The list included a 50-per cent cut in U.S. and Soviet strategic offensive forces, elimination of medium-range missiles in Europe, a cutback in conventional forces and a worldwide ban on chemical weapons.

Mr. Zamyatin said the Soviet Union could not accept proposals which do not include strict adherence to the 1972 anti-ballistic missile treaty designed to prevent an arms race in space.

Murphy, Rabin discuss improving conditions in occupied territories

TEL AVIV (R) — U.S. envoy Richard Murphy, touring the Middle East to sound out peace prospects, discussed improving living conditions in the occupied West Bank and Gaza with Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin Friday, an Israeli spokesman said.

He said they also reviewed security issues including the situation in South Lebanon, where Israeli warplanes were reported to have conducted their second bombing raid this week as Mr. Murphy and Mr. Rabin were holding their two-hour meeting.

Both sides said they discussed ways of furthering the stalled Middle East peace process.

The United States voiced concern at the use of force last month by Israeli troops who shot dead four young Palestinians and wounded more than 25 while putting down the most serious unrest in the occupied territories since 1982.

Washington has quietly pressed Israel to develop the West Bank economy and improve living standards for the 1.3 million Palestinians who have lived under Israeli occupation since the 1967 Middle East war.

After talks with Mr. Murphy Thursday, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir appealed publicly to Jordan to have direct peace negotiations with Israel.

In a speech at a hotel on the Dead Sea facing Jordan, Mr. Shamir declared: "I address myself to King Hussein on the other side of the sea to meet us, face to face, anywhere, to discuss peace between our two countries."

Mr. Shamir suggested they could discuss joint exploitation of mineral deposits, tourism, environmental cooperation and development of the adjacent ports of Eilat and Aqaba.

But in a speech earlier this week, he made clear that under his leadership Israel would not discuss returning any occupied territory to Arab rule.

King Hussein repeated recently that Jordan would only negotiate within the framework of an international peace conference attended by the five U.N. Security Council permanent members and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Meanwhile, the Soviet News Agency TASS said Wednesday Mr. Murphy's trip to the Middle East was a Washington effort to railroad the Camp David treaties and improve U.S. ties with Arab states.

TASS quoted officials in Washington as saying the purpose of the visit was to revive the

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Israeli settlers propose plan to close off chances for territorial compromise

A PLAN for new settlements in the West Bank, designed to close off any remaining chances for territorial compromise, has been submitted to Israeli Prime Minister Shamir by the leading organisation of settlers, the Jerusalem Post reported on Thursday.

The plan is signed by Omiel Shmeller, secretary of the Council of Jewish Settlements in the West Bank and the Gaza Region. It is dated Nov. 14, but details of the proposal have remained under wraps until now. The Jerusalem Post obtained a copy of the plan this week, and continued with its report as follows: The settlers' proposal also emphasises "erasing

the Green Line" and driving wedges of Jewish settlement between Arab towns and villages.

The settlement council, known in Hebrew by its acronym Yesha ("salvation"), has close ties with Housing Minister David Levy and Matiguy Drobles, the Likud co-chief of the World Zionist Organisation's (WZO) Settlement Division. In the past, the WZO and Likud politicians have taken the settlers' proposals very seriously.

The settlers list 18 new settlements, including five large towns, which they say Shamir and the Likud should set up. They also ask that a large suburb be built at Abir Ya'acov between Jerusalem

and Ramallah, where a few families now live in caravans.

"The goal is to add another 25,000-30,000 residents" to the Jewish population of the territories, Shmeller writes.

He makes it clear that the proposal is designed to deal a final blow to the Alignment's Allon Plan on the future of the West Bank.

According to the Allon Plan, Israel should return the mountain ridge area, with its large Palestinian population, to Jordan under a peace agreement. A corridor at Jericho would connect the mountain ridge to Jordan.

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Documents show Reagan approved Iran arms sales

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House on Friday released documents that indicate President Ronald Reagan approved the sale of weapons to Iran as "our only way to achieve the release of the Americans held in Beirut."

The documents and a senior White House official who briefed reporters on their contents portrayed the weapons deal as part of a larger strategy to "help bring about a more moderate government in Iran." But they also raised new questions about the president's motives and what he knew when he approved the Iranian arms deal a year ago.

The White House, which previously had steadfastly refused to release information about the case "piecemeal," briefed selected newspaper reporters Thursday night.

On Friday, it released Mr. Reagan's Jan. 17, 1986, intelligence report that authorised the sales and the withholding from Congress of information about the covert operations, as well as a three-page supporting memorandum.

The previously highly classified

memo was addressed to the president but apparently delivered to him verbally by Vice Adm. John Poindexter, then the national security adviser.

Adm. Poindexter resigned on Nov. 25 when it was learned that he knew of the diversion of profits from the arms sales to U.S.-backed Nicaraguan rebels.

The U.S. NBC Television Network, citing an unpublished Senate Intelligence Committee staff document, reported Thursday night that the arms shipments to Iran were approved last January by Mr. Reagan with the understanding that either the hostages held by Shi'ite Muslim militants in Lebanon would be released or the U.S. arms shipments would be halted.

The committee uncovered no evidence that Mr. Reagan knew about the alleged diversion of millions of dollars in profits from the Iranian arms sales to Nicaragua's contra rebels, NBC said.

Sen. David Boren, chairman of the intelligence committee, said Friday the document reported by NBC apparently was "an earlier

draft," not the final version the committee had voted this week to withhold from public release.

"Obviously the draft report which is out doesn't answer any of the big questions: Was the law broken? ... How high up the chain of command did it go?" Sen. Boren said. "It obviously is very preliminary and full of a lot of conjecture."

He said committee aides were reviewing all the testimony and documents collected during the panel's probe last month and trying to put together a more complete, balanced report that would be acceptable to Republicans and opposition Democrats on the committee.

Adm. Poindexter's memorandum sets out in detail the rationale for Mr. Reagan's approval of what it describes as an Israeli proposal to encourage moderate, potentially pro-U.S. elements within the Iranian government by selling them weapons for use in their war against Iraq.

"It is their belief that by so doing they can achieve a heretofore unobtainable

penetration of the Iranian governing hierarchy," the memo said.

The document sets out the Israelis' purported desire to proceed with the secret plan.

It also added the Israelis "are also sensitive to a strong U.S. desire to free our Beirut hostages and have insisted that the Iraqis demonstrate both influence and good intent by an early release of the five Americans."

"Both sides have agreed that the hostages will be immediately released upon commencement of this action," it said.

In Brussels, Belgium, Foreign Minister Leo Tindemans, president of the European Community's decision-making Council of Ministers, said Friday the U.S. role in the Middle East should be reviewed in the wake of secret arms sales to Iran.

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GCC envoys to rally support for OIC summit

ABU DHABI (R) — Leaders of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) will send envoys to Arab and Islamic capitals to rally support for this month's Islamic summit in Kuwait, a United Arab Emirates (UAE) newspaper said Friday.

Iran has officially asked the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) to change the conference's venue from Kuwait, saying it was not neutral in the Iran-Iraq war.

In a Kuwait-dated story, the Dubai-based daily Al-Bayan quoted well-informed sources as saying the envoys would try to persuade leaders of Islamic countries to attend the Kuwait summit in person.

The sources also said the UAE, which has good relations with Tehran, would appeal to the Iranians to attend the meeting, due to start on Jan. 26.

Foreign ministers of the GCC, which groups Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE, agreed in Riyadh earlier this week that the summit should be held at the scheduled time and venue.

The UAE daily Al-Itihad quoted South Yemeni Foreign Minister Abdul Aziz Al-Dali as saying that President Haidar Abu Bakr Al-Attiya would attend the Kuwait summit.

Mr. Dali, who returned to Aden on Wednesday after visiting Iran, told the newspaper that South Yemen supported Kuwait's efforts to convene the conference on the scheduled date.

He also said that he would visit Gulf Arab countries soon to promote relations with them. The tour would include a trip to Oman,

which has an outstanding border dispute with South Yemen.

Meanwhile Pakistan's Foreign Minister Shahbaz Khan told the official Radio Pakistan at Islamabad Airport that he would discuss this month's Islamic summit during his talks with Iranian leaders, and a subsequent visit to Saudi Arabia.

Iran has accused Kuwait of planning to use the gathering for propaganda in favour of Iraq. Diplomats in Islamabad said Mr. Yaqub Khan was expected to press Iranian leaders to attend the summit.

The three-day visit closely follows the start of a peace drive by Afghanistan's Communist leaders to end the eight-year-old guerrilla war in the central Asian country.

Pakistan and Iran are both vital to any settlement of the conflict as the Afghan rebels have bases and supply-lines in the two neighbouring countries.

Libya reconsiders position on Gulf war

In a separate development, a Kuwaiti newspaper reported Thursday that Libya is reconsidering its backing for Iran in its war against Iraq, because of Tehran's arms dealings with the United States.

Al-Watan, quoting informed

sources, said high-level contacts would begin soon between Tripoli and Baghdad to develop common ground.

"The new Libyan attitude has been adopted as a result of the Iran deal with America on arms," the daily said.

Libya and Syria are the only major Arab powers to have backed Iran in the war, now in its seventh year.

Tunisian Foreign Minister Hedi Mabrouk, meanwhile, reiterated his country's support for Iraq, another Kuwaiti daily said.

Al-Anba quoted him as saying: "We support Iraq for obvious reasons. Iraq is an Arab state and has used its potential to confront the Zionist (Israeli) entity."

He added that while Iraq had repeatedly expressed a desire for peace, Iran had rejected initiatives to end the war.

Mr. Mabrouk also told the newspaper that Tunis and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) had agreed there would be no Palestinian military forces stationed in his country, "because we are not a confrontation state."

The Palestinian political leadership was still welcome, he said.

Israeli jets bombed PLO offices in Tunisia in October, 1985.

Al-Anba said Mr. Mabrouk would visit Gulf Arab states this month, and then Iraq, Syria and Jordan, in a bid to boost Arab relations.

He told the daily that Tunisia was also working for a ceasefire in Lebanon's "camps war" between Palestinians and the Shi'ite Muslim Amal militia.

NEWS IN BRIEF

U.N. chief to visit Algeria

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar will pay an official visit to Algeria towards the end of this month, a U.N. source has said. An announcement is expected early next week. The U.N. chief will visit Algiers after attending a summit meeting of the Organisation of Islamic Conference scheduled to open in Kuwait on Jan. 26.

Soviet envoy to hold talks on Cyprus

NICOSIA (R) — A special Soviet envoy will visit Cyprus next week for talks with President Spyros Kyprianou on Moscow's proposals to solve the divided island's problems, the Soviet embassy said Friday. A statement said Nikolai Rodionov, a special representative of the Soviet Foreign Ministry, would meet Mr. Kyprianou on Monday. "He will be received... for an exchange of views on matters relative to the settlement of the Cyprus problem, in connection with the Soviet proposals of Jan. 21, 1986," it said. Moscow had proposed an international conference and complete demilitarisation of Cyprus within a United Nations framework to end 24 years of division between Greek and Turkish Cypriots.

Israeli army holds call-up exercise

TEL AVIV (R) — The Israeli army held a public call-up exercise for military reservists, broadcasting a series of codewords that alerted them to report to their units. Israeli radio broadcast the five codewords: "Safe Harbour, Wide Smile, Perfect Design, House Plants and Natural Phenomenon" — at 5 p.m. (1500 GMT).

Egypt, Italy discuss Gulf war, Chad

CAIRO (R) — Italian Defence Minister Giovanni Spadolini and his Egyptian counterpart Field Marshal Abdul Halim Abu Ghazala have met for talks which Mr. Spadolini said focussed on the Iran-Iraq war and the situation in Chad. Mr. Spadolini, who stopped briefly in Cairo on his way home from visits to Somalia and Sudan, told reporters he had explained Italy's role in trying to end the fighting in Chad. He also said there was a need to bolster an existing military cooperation agreement with Egypt and he had invited Abu Ghazala to visit Italy in May.

U.S. prisoners in Iran denied visits

BERNE, Switzerland (R) — Iranian authorities have refused to allow Swiss intermediaries to visit two U.S. prisoners held in Iran, the Swiss Foreign Ministry has said. A spokesman told Reuters: "Switzerland has been asked by the American authorities to visit two prisoners. We have tried on several occasions to gain permission from Iranian authorities but without success." U.S. officials say Jon Patiss, a 50-year-old engineer, was arrested in July on spying charges and a U.S. businessman, whose name has been withheld, was arrested on swindling charges in 1984 or 1985.

Ethiopian minister arrives in Cairo

CAIRO (R) — Ethiopian Foreign Minister Berhanu Bayeh has arrived in Cairo for talks expected to centre on the bush war in southern Sudan and the situation in Chad. Mr. Bayeh said in a statement at Cairo Airport, where he was met by Foreign Minister Ahmad Esmat Abdul Maguid, that the fighting in Sudan was an internal problem which should be resolved by the Sudanese themselves. Ethiopia backs Sudanese rebels in their struggle against the government in Khartoum. Mr. Bayeh said Addis Ababa was ready to host further talks between the Sudanese government and the rebels. Sudanese Foreign Minister Sharif Hindi said last month that Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak had offered to mediate to try to end the fighting and was ready to discuss possible solutions with Ethiopian leader Mengistu Haile Mariam.

30 kidnapped Ethiopians freed

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Thirty Ethiopians kidnapped by rebels from a road construction camp in Ethiopia have been freed and say two Italian technicians still held are in good health, the construction company manager said Thursday. In a telephone interview from the Addis Ababa offices of Salini Construction Company, the manager — who identified himself as C. Tuffarelli — said the workers, released three days ago, reached Ethiopia's north western town of Bahar Dar on Thursday. They said their rebel captors forced them to walk for 10 days before freeing them, according to Tuffarelli, an Italian.

Habre, Ouaddei forces announce union

N'DJAMENA, Chad (AP) — The army of President Hissene Habre and the rebel fighters of former President Goukouni Ouaddei, both battling against Libyan forces in northern Chad, have proclaimed an official alliance, leaders of both armies announced.

A statement broadcast Thursday night by the official Chad Radio said the agreement between the two parties was signed on Oct. 24 at Koummina in the Ennedi region of north eastern Chad "at the request of Goukouni Ouaddei partisans."

There was no explanation for the delay in the announcement of the pact.

Mr. Goukouni, formerly backed by Libya's Col. Muammar Qadhafi, broke with Tripoli in October 1986 and his forces rallied to the N'djamena government. He remains under house arrest in Tripoli. Since Dec. 11, Libyan troops have been trying to oust the former rebels from the Tibesti Mountains of north western Chad.

Both the government and the rebels have been battling an estimated 5,000 to 7,000 Libyans in northern Chad.

"We have been engaged in the process of reconciliation with the Chadian government in order to put an end to the previous state of belligerence," said Adoum Yacoub, chief of staff of the Goukouni forces, which previously had been fighting to oust Mr. Habre from power.

Zamato Ganemba, deputy commander-in-chief of the government forces praised the agreement. "From now on we are one army," he said.

According to the agreement, Mr. Habre's army agreed to

provide "administration and logistics" for their new allies, and to recognise the rights of their officers and non-commissioned officers.

"On all of the battlefields, from now on (the former rebels and the government army) form one and the same corps," and the absorption of the rebel forces "is total," Yacoub said.

He said there continued to be a few problems of political reconciliation, "but the priority must be given to the situation on the ground."

In France, Defence Minister Andre Giraud said Thursday that France's attack on a Libyan airfield in northern Chad assured French credibility, but that Paris did not want to get dragged further into what it sees as a civil war.

Mr. Giraud said Libyan warplanes Wednesday attacked the village of Kouba Oulanga, 65 kilometres south of the 16th parallel. The French have said they will not tolerate Libyan military activity below that line.

But he said the Libyan raid was ineffective, and he implied French jets would not retaliate against Libyan targets for the attack.

French warplanes, striking back for a Libyan air attack on two southern towns last weekend, knocked out the radar system Wednesday at the Libyan airfield in Ouedi Doum, 153 kilometres north east of the major oasis at Faya Largeau. The Libyan raid on Kouba Oulanga came a few hours later.

Col. Qadhafi's government, through the Libyan news agency JANA, called the report of the latest Libyan raid "a lie."

Mr. Giraud said: "It was a matter of a few bombs, dropped from high altitude that fell in the dunes."

France was in the past responded to Libyan sorties south of the 16th parallel by sending its planes against Libyan targets in northern Chad.

In N'djamena, the Chadian capital, official sources said Zouar, a town on the edge of the Tibesti Mountains in extreme north western Chad, came under Libyan bombardment Thursday.

Meanwhile Sudanese Interior Minister Sid Ahmad Al-Husseini was quoted Friday as saying large numbers of Chadian refugees were flooding into Sudan following the renewal of fighting.

The minister told the United Arab Emirates daily Al-Itihad that the refugees, arriving daily, were adding to problems caused by resident refugees from Ethiopia, Eritrea, Nigeria and elsewhere.

Sudan called Thursday for a "United and Stable" Chad enjoying "good neighbourly relations" with Libya.

The statement by Prime Minister Sadeq Al-Mahdi laid no blame for the recent escalation in fighting in Chad, Sudan's neighbour to the west, involving Libyan and Chadian rebel and government forces.

"We are watching with great sorrow what is going on in Chad," Mr. Mahdi told the official Sudan News Agency.

"Sudan supports reconciliation among the Chadians and good neighbourly relations between Libya and Chad."

"We are looking forward to seeing Chad united and stable."

Libya blamed for killing Arab in Athens

LONDON (Agencies) — Libyan exiles said Friday an Arab shot in Athens on Wednesday was a Libyan killed by agents of Muammar Qadhafi and accused Tripoli of mounting a campaign to murder its opponents abroad.

The National Front for the Salvation of Libya (NFSL) issued a statement identifying the victim as Mohammad Feheima, a long-standing dissident who fled his homeland in 1982.

It condemned the shooting and said it "directly accuses Col. Qadhafi and his murderous regime of perpetrating it."

The cold blooded shooting of Mohammad Feheima in an Athens suburb on Wednesday January 7th, 1987 marks a new wave of murder and terrorism against Libyans abroad which have claimed the lives of more than 25 Libyans since 1980," the statement said.

Athens police initially identified the victim, hit by eight bullets in a seaside restaurant, as Mutaya Al-Mahmud, 34, apparently in accordance with the Kuwaiti passport he was carrying. But they later said the passport was false.

The NFSL urged Greek authorities to find and punish the killers and called for heightened security for Libyan exiles.

"It is high time that the Greek government faced up to its responsibilities in protecting Libyan expatriates in Greece and denying Qadhafi's agents the facility and protection they enjoy there, where five Libyans have so far been slain in cold blood," the group said.

The Greek government has repeatedly expressed concern over killings by Arab groups on its

soil.

Greek newspapers reported Friday that police believe the two escaped gunmen were pro-Qadhafi and that the killing took place to "settle political differences."

Greek police have declined to comment on the case, saying an investigation is under way. No organisation has claimed responsibility for the shooting.

Mutaya's Libyan companion, identified as Nagat Ghoma, 36, told police that the victim was a Libyan businessman living in the United States, according to the press reports.

"Mutaya was anti-Qadhafi and was targeted for revenge because of anti-Libyan activities in America, where he had moved many years ago," Kathimerini (daily), a conservative morning newspaper, reported.

Gunmen free Dar Al-Handasa chief

BEIRUT (R) — A kidnapped company chief has been released in Lebanon after four days of negotiations which brought an offer to pay a ransom by radical Palestinian leader Abu Nidal, a newspaper reported Friday.

Daoud Abdo Saba, director of Lebanon's Dar Al-Handasa engineering company, was released blindfolded near a ruined sports stadium in Muslim west Beirut Thursday night, As-Safir said.

He walked to a Lebanese army checkpoint and then took a taxi home.

Mr. Saba, a Christian, was quoted by As-Safir as saying his abductors were kind to him and they spent their time discussing such subjects as "unemployment problems among graduate engineers."

It was not immediately clear if a demanded \$50,000 ransom was paid. Dar Al-Handasa had threatened to close its Beirut

offices if they had to pay it.

The company employs 400 people in west Beirut and 2,000 elsewhere in the Middle East.

As-Safir published a statement by Abu Nidal's Fateh Revolutionary Council — accused by Western countries of responsibility for a number of actions — offering to pay the ransom the instant Saba was freed.

It was not immediately known if the Palestinian group had paid or not.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION Tel: 773111-19	PROGRAMME ONE 15:00 Programme Review 15:30 Cartoons 16:00 Soccer: Germany vs. Italy 16:30 Teaching French 16:30 Science programme (Arabic) 16:50 The Prisoner of Zenda 17:20 Family programme 17:50 Programme review 18:00 News in Arabic 18:30 Message from Iraq 19:45 Arabic series 21:30 Faces and Events (Arabic) 22:25 Tomorrow's programmes 22:30 Arabic play 22:30 News Summary in Arabic 23:10 Play continued	PROGRAMME TWO 18:00 Entree Libre 18:30 Les animaux du monde 19:00 News in French 19:15 La Valle des Peupliers 19:30 News in Hebrew 19:45 Science World 20:00 News in Arabic 20:30 Dad's Army 21:10 Saturday variety show 22:00 News in English 22:30 Feature film: The Last of Sheila Richard Benjamin, Dyan Cannon, James Mason	RADIO JORDAN 88.5 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM & partly on 95.60 KHz, SW Tel: 773111-19	21:00 News Summary 21:05 Hitville: The Story of Motown 21:30 News Summary 21:45 In Concert 22:00 Country Music 22:30 Close down	BBC WORLD SERVICE 639, 720, 1323 KHz 06:00 Newsday 06:30 Here's Humph 06:45 Reflections 06:50 Financial News 07:00 World News 07:30 24 Hours 07:45 News Summary 07:50 About Britain 07:45 The World Today 08:00 08:00 Newsday 08:30 Mediterranean World 08:45 News Summary 08:50 World 09:00 09:30 24 Hours: News Summary 09:30 From the Weeklies 09:45 Network UK 10:00 World News 10:05 Reflections 10:15 A Jolly Good Show 11:00 World News 11:05 British Press Review 11:15 The World Today 11:30 Financial News followed by Look Ahead 11:45 About Britain 12:00 News Summary: Here's Humph 12:15 Letter from America 12:30 People and Politics 12:45 Letter from America 12:50 World News 13:00 News About Britain 13:15 Great Organisms Play Back 13:30 Meridian 14:00 Radio Newsday 14:15 Multitrack 14:45 Sports Round-up 15:00 World News 15:05 24 Hours News Summary 15:30 World News UK 15:45 Country Style 16:00 News Summary: Album: Time 16:30 Saturday Special 17:00 Radio Newsday 17:15 Saturday Special 18:00 World News 18:05 Commentary 18:15 Sunday Special 19:00 News Summary: Saturday Special 19:45 Sports Round-up 20:00 Newsday 20:30 Play of the Week: Bread and Butter 22:00 World News	VOICE OF AMERICA 1260 MW, 720, 956, 1170 11925 and 15210 KHz 05:00 News 05:30 News Summary Morning Show 06:00 News 06:10 VOA Morning 06:30 News Summary VOA Morning 07:00 News 07:10 American Morning 07:30 News Summary VOA Morning 08:00 News 08:10 Closeup 08:30 News Summary VOA Morning 09:00 News 09:10 VOA Morning 09:30 News Summary VOA Morning 10:00 Features 10:30 News 10:40 American Conference USA 10:50 News 10:50 American Viewpoints 10:50 Special English News and Features 10:50 News 10:50 Weekend 20:00 News 20:10 Closeup 20:30 Special English News & Features 21:00 News 21:10 American Viewpoints 21:30 Press Conference USA 22:00 News and Editorial 22:15 Music USA Jazz 23:00 News 23:10 Weekend
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WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS EXHIBITIONS * An exhibition of architectural paintings of Iraq Al-Amir by Francoise Lardie and Jean-Pierre Lange at the Architecture Gallery — Royal Centre, Jabal Amman (until Jan. 10). * A painting exhibition entitled: "On the Banks of Jordan" at the Jordan National Gallery, Jabal Luveldah (until Jan. 23). * An exhibition of photographs entitled "La Ville" at the French Cultural Centre (until Jan. 29).	CULTURAL CENTRES Royal Cultural Centre, Tel. 6610267 American Centre, 644371 British Council Library, 644520 British Council, 6361478 French Cultural Centre, 637009 Goethe Institute, 641993 Soviet Cultural Centre, 644203 Spanish Cultural Centre, 624049 Turkish Cultural Centre, 639777 Haya Arts Centre, 665195 Hawala Youth City, 6671816 Y.W.C.F.V., 641793 Y.W.M.A., 664251 Amman Municipal Library, 637111 University of Jordan Library, 843555	MUSEUMS Folklore Museum: Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 3 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 631760. Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al-Qa'a (Chapel Hill). Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays. Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Muntazah, Jabal Luveldah. Opening hours: 10.00 a.m. - 1.30 p.m. and 3.00 p.m. - 6.00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 630128. Martyrs' Memorial (Military Museum): Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916.	CHURCHES St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman, Tel. 624590. Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Luveldah, Tel. 637440. De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Hussein, Tel. 661757. Terrence Church (Roman Catholic) Orthodox) Abidat, Tel. 623541. Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabal Amman, Tel. 678906. Assumption Catholic Church Ashrafieh, Tel. 771331. Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, Tel. 775261. St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, Tel. 771751. Armenian International Church (Inter-denominational) meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisani. Tel. 677534. Evangelical Lutheran Church, Jabal Amman, 6th Circle, (Rev. N. Smir), Tel. 811295. Rabwah Congregation (International, Interdenominational) meets in the Church of the Redeemer, Jabal Amman, Tel. 606974.	PRAYER TIMES 06:11 Fair 06:34 (Sunrise) Duha 11:03 Duha 14:31 'Asr 16:22 Maghrib 18:16 'Isha
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FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian in Jordanian Department at the Queen Alia International Airport, tel. (039) 33200-5, where it should always be verified.	ARRIVALS JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1) 04:05 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ) 05:05 Beirut (MS) 05:20 Cairo (RJ) 05:30 Karachi, Dubai (RJ) 05:30 Damascus (RJ) 05:30 Dhahran, Kuwait (RJ) 05:30 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (RJ) 05:30 London (RJ) 05:30 New York, Vienna (RJ) 05:30 Copenhagen, Frankfurt (RJ) 05:30 Tripoli (RJ) 05:30 Baghdad (RJ)	OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2) 02:45 Belgrade (JU) 05:20 Frankfurt (LH) 05:20 Larnaca, London (BA) 12:20 Cairo (MS) 15:00 Kuwait (KU) 15:45 Kuwait (UN) 16:00 Riyadh (SV) 15:30 Baghdad (JA)	MARITIME TRAFFIC Regular-line ships docking at Aqaba port: — Al-Yamamah — Sijutayr Goldschmidt — Al-Kadish Steadkin Anis Kavar and Sons Company, with its new office in Sweden, at your service, tel. 60370715.	WEATHER Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology. A cold air mass is predicted to move into the area, bringing with it scattered showers and a gradual decrease in temperatures. The winds will be southerly and fresh. In Aqaba, it will be partly cloudy with a chance of scattered showers. Winds will be southerly and fresh, with rough seas.	Min./max temp. Aqaba 3/8 Amman 7/18 Dahran 9/13 Jordan Valley 5/15	DEPARTURES JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1) 06:45 Aqaba (RJ) 08:30 Rome, Paris (RJ) 11:00 Vienna, New York (RJ) 11:00 Geneva, Madrid (RJ) 11:00 London (RJ) 12:15 Frankfurt, Brussels (RJ) 13:00 Larnaca (RJ) 13:30 Cairo (RJ) 13:30 Bahrain, Dubai (RJ) 13:30 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ) 13:30 Jeddah (RJ) 13:30 Baghdad (RJ) 13:30 Kuwait (RJ)	Thursdays rates Local subsidiary rates in Jds Belgian franc 84.6 Dutch guilder 1.56/2 French franc 52.9 Italian lire 25/25 Japanese yen (for 100) 215.3 Swedish crown 50.9 Swiss franc 209.8 U.K. sterling pound 499.8 U.S. dollar 341.6 W. German mark 176.2
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USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

EMERGENCIES Amman governorate 891228 Amman civil defence 198, 199 Civil Defence Unit 271293, 273131 Civil Defence Headquarters 770723 Civil Defence Deir Alla 57306 Ambulance 193, 775111 Amman downtown fire brigade 198 First aid 778303 Blood bank 661111 Civil Defence rescue 622090-3 Police rescue 192, 621111, 637777 Police headquarters 639141 Traffic police 896390/1 Electric Power Co. 636381/4, 624881 Municipal water complaints 771258 Queen Alia Int. Airport (03) 333060	HOSPITALS Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32 Khafki Maternity, J. Amman 64428/6 Akileh Maternity, J. Amman 64244/2 Jabal Amman Maternity 642332 Maltes, J. Amman 636140 Palestine, Shmeisani 664171/4 Shmeisani Hospital 669131 University Hospital 84584/5 Al-Munassar Hospital 667227/9 The Islamic, Abidat 666127/37 Al-Ahl, Abidat 664164/6 Tahsin, Al-Husayn 77101/3 Al-Basit, F. Adarash 77511/26 Army, Marza 891611/15 Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50 Amal Hospital 674155	GENERAL Jordan Television 77311/19 Radio Jordan 77411/19 Ministry of Tourism 642311 Hotel complaints 666412 Price complaints 661176 Telephone information 12 Jordan and Middle East calls 10 Overseas calls 17 Repair service 11	MARKET PRICES Upper/lower price in Jds per kg. Apple (double red and golden) 170/130 Grape 600/550 Grapfruit 110/80 Lemon 100/60 Mango 170/120 Onion (dry) 220/160 Onion (green) 190/150 Orange (Abu Surra) 250/200 Orange (Shmeisani) 190/150 Pepper (hot) 340/280 Pepper (sweet) 480/400 Potato 240/180 Spinach 150/120 Tomato 220/160 Turnip 110/70
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WAJ director cites 'technical reasons' for delay of Khirbet Al Samra plant

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — Technical and other reasons were behind the 12-month delay in the official opening of the JD 17 million Khirbet Al Samra wastewater treatment plant near Zarqa, a senior official from the Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) said Friday.

In an interview with the Jordan Times, WAJ Director General Mohammad Saleh Al Keilani said that the delay was to "make sure that the technical commissioning and operations were 100 per cent accurate." In an earlier interview, in June 1985, Mr. Keilani expected the plant to be operational by the end of 1985.

Deputising for the prime minister, Mr. Abdul Wahab Al Majali, deputy prime minister and minister of state for prime ministry affairs, on Thursday inaugurated the plant which will serve Amman, Zarqa and a number of surrounding towns and villages and which will also contribute to national efforts for the reclamation of land and growing fruit and forest trees.

Citing other reasons for the delay, Mr. Keilani said that growing trees comes in line with the international standards for all wastewater treatment plants. Mr. Keilani explained that the water authority has so far planted a total of 700,000 trees on an area of 2,500 square metres and added

that, in the coming two to three years, a target of planting three million trees on a total area of seven dunums will be achieved.

Addressing a ceremony held at the plant to mark its inauguration, Mr. Keilani said that the plant was of vital importance for Amman and Zarqa and that it will serve the two cities and their neighbouring areas from now until the end of the present century. The plant serves as a substitute for several smaller ones which the WAJ had intended to set up in various parts of Amman and Zarqa, Mr. Keilani continued.

Speaking on the occasion, the plant's director, Mr. Sager Salem, said that the project, set up on an area of 2,000 dunums of land, has the capacity to treat up to 120,000 cubic metres of wastewater per day and can serve up to two million inhabitants.

The cost of the project, which took 30 months to complete, has been covered by the treasury, Mr. Salem said.

This project is bound to contribute to the improvement of the health situation in the country because it serves as an effective substitute for cess-pools which used to pollute the environment in general and underground water reserves in particular, Mr. Salem added.

According to Mr. Salem, the project entailed laying pipelines to carry the wastewater from Ain Ghazal, east of Amman, to the Khirbet Al Samra plant, a distance

of 39 kilometres. It also involved setting up 32 pools on 810 dunums of land at the plant for the wastewater treatment process.

Mr. Salem said that nearly 50,000 cubic metres of the treated water will be used for reclaiming 7,000 dunums of land which are being grown with 25,000 olive trees and 1,000 apple trees, in addition to a variety of other plants. Plans are being made for reclaiming an additional 3,000 dunums to be grown with lemon and forest trees, he continued.

Later, Mr. Majali, accompanied by the WAJ director, toured the project's sections and unveiled a commemorative plaque placed at the entrance of a plot of land to be planted with trees.

Majali opens water tower

Mr. Majali also opened a newly-erected water tower at Al Rashid district in Amman. According to WAJ sources, the JD 488,419 project has the capacity to pump up to 200 cubic metres per hour to districts of Amman. The tower, complete with pumping stations, has a total capacity of 10,750 cubic metres of water.

Mr. Keilani told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that so far nearly 90 per cent of the total population of Jordan receives potable water through pipe networks and that the remainder will be supplied through the system from now until the year 2000.

Security forces recover stolen lion's head

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The special security forces, aided by the police in Irbid and Jerash, have recovered a 100 kilogramme statue of a lion's head two weeks after it was stolen from the ruins of Jerash.

On the morning of Dec. 27, an international team of experts working on restoring the temple of Zeus at Jerash discovered the head of a stone sculpture of a lion, which decorated the entrance to the temple, was missing, said Dr. Adnan Hadidi, director of the Department of Antiquities. "The head, dating back to the Second Century, had been sawn off and was transferred to a small van by wooden beams and ropes," said Dr. Hadidi.

"The thieves, who were apprehended on Thursday, were two brothers in their forties from the Jerash region. They were labourers at Jerash who recently lost their jobs after being caught stealing other artifacts," said Dr. Hadidi in an interview with the Jordan Times. He added: "We suspected these two brothers because of their previous record. They are a family specialised in stealing antiquities for commercial reasons."

The head of the lion was sold to a third party whom Dr. Hadidi declined to name but he did say the person involved was an ex-antique dealer. "When the police were alerted and the newspapers reported the theft, the third party panicked. He tried to return the head to the ruins of Jerash, but finding the site surrounded by police, drove to Ajloun. On the way he threw the statue into a valley," said Dr. Hadidi. Farmers ploughing their land saw him and called the special security force who later arrested the brothers and the antique dealer. They may spend anywhere from one to three years in prison and pay a fine no more than JD 300, said Dr. Hadidi.

Those involved violated the 1976 law on antiquities which states that any dealings in antiquities are considered by the Jordanian authorities as illegal. This is in accordance with the 1974 United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) charter to protect the cultural heritage of nations worldwide and to curb commercial dealings in antiquities, said Dr. Hadidi.

Khatib briefs Georgetown team on Mideast issues

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Information Mohammad Al Khatib on Friday received a delegation of students and scholars currently on a visit to Jordan from Georgetown University in Washington.

The minister explained to the delegation the development of the Arab-Israeli conflict, Jordanian-US relations, as well as Jordan's firm stand aimed at finding a just, comprehensive and durable peace in the Middle East through an international peace conference to be attended by all the concerned parties, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), and the five permanent member countries of the U.N. Security Council.

At the end of the meeting, Mr. Khatib replied to the delegation's questions which focused on the Arab-Israeli conflict, U.S.-Arab relations and the prospects for peace in the region.

On Thursday, the guest

delegation was received by Ministry of Planning Secretary General Ziyad Fariz who reviewed the major features of the Jordanian economy and the five-year development plan. Dr. Fariz pointed out that the plan has set a number of goals aimed at increasing the annual Gross National Product by 5 per cent, creating new job opportunities in various sectors as well as reducing the trade deficit.

He also explained the goals of the development programme for the occupied Arab territories and said that it was aimed at improving the conditions of Arab citizens living under the Israeli occupation and reactivating the various industrial, commercial and agricultural sectors to preserve the Arab identity. Dr. Fariz also referred to the recent measures and laws issued by the government to encourage Arab and foreign investment in Jordan.

Irbid hospital deals with 10 cases of mushroom poisoning

IRBID (J.T.) — Ten people have been treated at the Princess Basma Hospital in Irbid for food poisoning and some were discharged on Thursday after recovering, according to a report in Al Dustour Arabic daily newspaper. The paper said that the victims, who included six children, had eaten poisonous mushrooms on Wednesday and were given the necessary treatment but some were referred to Eilat's military hospital.

The paper quoted Dr. Abdul Hafez Al Momani, the Princess Basma Hospital director, as saying that another eight cases were treated for the same symptoms last month, but that there had been no deaths so far. Dr. Momani said that the public can tell the difference between poisonous and non-poisonous mushrooms since the former have a reddish to yellow-red colour.

AMPCO signs produce export contract with Bahraini firm

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Agricultural Marketing and Processing Company of Jordan (AMPCO) has signed contracts to export Jordanian agricultural produce to Bahrain and the company will be supplying Bahraini markets with fruit and vegetables from Jordan over the coming three years, according to AMPCO Director General Ghazi Abu Hassan.

Mr. Abu Hassan said that the contract with the Bahraini National Investment Company, provides for shipping all the consignments of vegetables and fruit to the company's headquarters from where the distribution throughout Bahrain will be organised. Under the agreement, AMPCO will in return purchase agricultural materials which are not available in Jordan through the Bahraini company, Mr. Abu Hassan continued.

He said that the contract was signed by a representative of the Bahraini company in Amman.

Earlier, Mr. Abu Hassan made a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, in which he announced that a total of 3,500 tonnes of lemon have been shipped to Arab and foreign markets between November 1986 and January 1987.

He said that AMPCO bought the lemons directly from orchards in the Jordan Valley and shipped the consignments in accordance with a set programme.

Universities of Jordan, Glasgow sign memo on cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — The University of Jordan on Thursday signed a memorandum with the University of Glasgow for implementing a cultural and educational cooperation programme between the two institutions.

The memorandum, signed by Dr. Abdul Salam Al Majali and Professor David Sharp, provides for carrying out joint programmes in the field of engineering, technology and medicine. Both sides agreed to establish a common doctorate degree in these specialisations and to launch a training programme for post graduate studies pertaining to engineering, medicine and technology. The two universities will also exchange working visits by officials and staff and conduct joint research projects.

They agreed to set up laboratories and workshops to help researchers from both sides carry out studies and research work and they will also conduct joint supervision of lectures and students' scientific assignments.

Study recommends further minimum spending of JD10m on local municipal councils

Crown Prince chairs first meeting of ministerial committee to review guidelines of recent report

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A recently completed study on the financial situation of the Kingdom's municipalities and municipal councils has recommended that the government spend a minimum extra JD 10 million on these local councils to help them improve their financial conditions, a senior official told the Jordan Times on Friday.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, declined to detail the present government expenditure on municipalities and local councils but said that the study has "put the figure of JD 10 million as a minimum target to be achieved in extra expenditure" over the present public financing.

The official also preferred not to elaborate on the guidelines of the study which was recently completed by the Ministry of Rural and Municipal Affairs and the Environment.

The study came in response to one of several recommendations issued last year at the end of a three-day conference held in Amman to discuss the financial situation of Jordan's local councils.

After the study was completed, Prime Minister Zaki Rifai formed a ministerial committee grouping the ministers of finance, planning and municipal and rural affairs to evaluate the study, which will be forwarded to the Prime Ministry for execution in the coming few months.

Asked to comment on the results of the council's first meeting on Thursday, which was chaired by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the official declined to elaborate. "I can not say much, but the audience was characterised as very frank and candid with very honest discussions," he said.

Prince Hassan highlights developmental role

Reporting on Thursday's meeting, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said that Crown Prince Hassan underlined the importance for local municipal councils to play a meaningful role in the development of their regions and in the implementation of the Kingdom's national five-year development plan for 1986-1990.

He said that proper measures should be taken to help execute integrated projects in rural areas in cooperation with the concerned government authorities. "Wherever possible, local

revenues should be relied on in the implementation of such projects and in improving public services in different provinces," Prince Hassan was quoted by Petra as telling the ministerial committee.

The committee, in addition to the three ministers, groups the under secretaries at the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs, the director general of the Cities and Villages Development Bank and the director general of the General Budget Department.

The official told the Jordan Times the study took almost "one year to be completed." He explained that the ministerial committee should have held its first session earlier than Thursday but explained that all the concerned ministers were engaged in drafting and discussing the 1987 fiscal budgets.

The need to increase local municipalities' revenues and improve their financial positions has been stated on several occasions during the past years and a number of deputies and Senators have reiterated these calls during sessions of Parliament.

In almost every written or broadcast interview with any of the municipal heads, their demand has always been "more revenues," according to observers.

The official said the ministerial committee will hold its second meeting either on Tuesday or on Thursday to follow up on these issues.

Magazine names Prince Hassan 'man of the year'

AMMAN (J.T.) — A local magazine has named His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan as "man of the year," in appreciation for the Prince's efforts to advance socio-economic development and for his humanitarian values and stands.

In a special issue of the Arab Inma'a socio-economic development magazine, the publication cited many attributes which prompted the choice of Prince Hassan and the publication said: "He is an intellectual, a highly-educated man and a person full of meaningful initiatives."

The magazine also gave a full biography of Prince Hassan and referred to a number of articles and three books written by the Prince.

Discussing Prince Hassan's contributions on the economic front, it said: "Tribute is paid to Prince Hassan for supervising and

launching Jordan's national development plans. Jordan's present economic steadfastness regarding the economic recession is a direct and living example of the outcome of proper planning and of just economic decisions which are based on capabilities and stable view points."

On Prince Hassan's humanitarian values, the magazine said: "Prince Hassan appealed to all Arab countries to help Sudan overcome the consequences of drought. Such an initiative only emanates from somebody with a pan-Arab heart, a person who believes in God the almighty and in the sense of belonging."

The magazine also spoke about Prince Hassan's personal initiatives and endeavours which led to the establishment of a number of specialised organisations such as the Forum

Humanum, and the Arab Thought Forum (ATF).

The magazine and that Prince Hassan's keen interest in tackling humanitarian issues was crystallised when he appealed to the United Nations to draft a new humanitarian order. The U.N. adopted His Highness' appeal and ordered the establishment of the Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues (ICHI), which is co-chaired by Prince Hassan and His Highness Prince Sadruddine Aga Khan.

The publication also noted that Prince Hassan chairs the annual conference of the Al Al Bait Foundation which is devoted to on tackling Islamic law and highlighting the concept of modern Islamic values to help Arab Islamic society face numerous modern-day challenges.

Iraqi delegation explores marketing solutions for Jordan's egg surplus

By Sa'ad G. Hattar Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — An Iraqi agricultural delegation, currently in Amman to renew the minutes of a Jordanian-Iraqi protocol, said on Friday that they planned to further support and facilitate the marketing of the Kingdom's surplus table-egg production in Iraq.

Mr. Jassem Mohammad Jabbar, vice-president of the Iraqi general federation of farmers cooperative societies, told the Jordan Times that the federation will seek to overcome obstacles hindering the marketing of Jordanian table-eggs, in his country.

The price of Jordanian eggs, the marketing process in Iraq as well as storage and preservation problems were cited as the major obstacles impeding marketing Jordan's egg production in Iraq.

Iraq has signed a package deal with the Jordan Society for the Production and Marketing of Eggs (JSPME) to export 47 million eggs to the Iraqi market at a price of \$19.20 per carton — \$2 higher than the international egg price — which is still below the local production cost.

One JSPME official said that the agreement to ship the eggs over the first six months of the current year was expected to offset an anticipated surplus of approximately 50 million table eggs during the first half of 1987.

In an interview with the Jordan Times, Mr. Jabbar — who is accompanied on his six-day visit to Jordan by the federation's bureau chief Yaseen Fad'ani — said the agreement was kept open for renewal in the next half of 1987, but on better price terms.

The JSPME has urged the government to "subsidise the society's export costs — reaching up to 20 per cent of the egg price — in order to enable Jordanian eggs to become more competitive in price."

Last year, members in the society sustained an accumulated financial loss amounting to almost JD 1,650,000 as a result of marketing flaws and non-adherence to set production quotas for the 140 egg farms which produce approximately 500 million table-eggs per annum.

According to Mr. Jabbar, the delegation's visit to Jordan was geared to further boost bilateral relations and to exchange

viewpoints on the best means of enhancing the agricultural sectors in both countries.

In Amman, members of the Iraqi delegation and Jordanian officials discussed prospects of setting up joint agricultural projects to process and utilise the surplus produce of the two countries.

On Thursday, Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO) Director General Merweel Al Dal received the Iraqi delegation in the presence of JSPME Chairman of the Board Suleiman Irtemani. The Iraqi delegation voiced their country's keenness to further promote bilateral relations in agricultural-related issues, especially the poultry sector.

Mr. Irtemani later hosted a lunch at his residence in honour of the delegation and it was attended by Minister of Agriculture Marwan Al Hmoud.

Before ending their visit, the Iraqi delegation is expected to sign a renewal of a bilateral agricultural protocol, to which amendments to certain articles are currently being drafted.

The delegation is expected to wind up their visit on Sunday.

Israeli settlers propose new plan

(Continued from page 1)

"After a period in which talk was heard of a settlement freeze," Shneller says, "it is necessary to establish settlements specifically on the mountain ridge, to testify to our faith in the justice of our approach... and to eliminate the mistaken approach of territorial compromise."

He adds: "We do not ignore the political necessity of taking the Alignment's stand into account, but that does not mean surrendering to it completely."

Shneller proposes that a settlement called "Elisha" ("God will save") be built just north of Jericho. This is meant "to close off the option" of returning the Arab city to Jordanian rule after peace talks.

The one moderate point in the plan is a note that "we do not recommend Jewish settlement inside Arab cities." Some circles in the settlement movement have sought to move into Nablus and Jericho.

Since becoming prime minister, Shamir has sought to avoid a clash

with the Alignment over settlement, and has resisted calls for establishing new Jewish towns and villages in the territories.

But he has come under increasing pressure from settlers and their supporters to begin a settlement drive. This week both Tehiya and the National Religious Party announced that they would lobby for new settlements.

The settlers' new plan includes sites deliberately placed between Arab communities. Other sites are chosen to lie between large Arab cities and Jordan — again, to prevent territorial compromise. For example:

— "Tize," north of Nablus, would "close off" access from Jordan to Nablus by controlling the road from the Arab town to the Adam Bridge.

— "Kur," in western Samaria, would "close off" the densely populated Arab area of Tulkarm and Kalkilya from the east."

— "Tzoref," southwest of Bethlehem, would separate the Arab settlements of Tzurif, Bayt Umar and Bayt Ula."

— "Ginat," west of Jenin, would "prevent Arab expansion."

The proposal also describes a number of sites near the pre-1967 border — in the Gaza Strip, the southern Hebron hills, the Latrun area, western and northern Samaria — as "erasing the Green Line."

In addition to the 18 proposed settlements, the plan lists eight sites where private developers have planned suburbs of Jerusalem or Tel Aviv. "Legally nothing prevents the private developers from establishing these settlements," Shneller writes, "since they received building permits before the national unity government took office."

In fact, most of the developers have run into financial problems, or are involved in legal battles with Arabs over ownership of the land — The Jerusalem Post.

Rabin: No attack on Hezbollah

(Continued from page 1)

government. Western intelligence sources suspect links between the groups.

Hezbollah's spiritual guide, Sheikh Mohammad Hussein Fadlallah, has denied he has any ties with the kidnapers and has said he has tried to free the hostages.

The sixth American hostage is believed held by a pro-Libyan faction known as the Arab Revolutionary Cells-Omar Moukhtar Forces.

Meanwhile Israeli officials Friday repeated their denial that there had been a link between Israel and U.S.-backed right-wing

rebels in Nicaragua. They were replying to questions about reports of such a connection in the New York Times and Washington Post, alleging in one case that Israel supplied arms to the Nicaraguan guerrillas, known as "contras."

"We never comment on arms sales but we wish to repeat that at no time has there ever been any connection between Israel and the contras," an official spokesman told Reuters.

Israeli leaders have said Israel supplied arms to Iran at the request of the United States but was unaware that the proceeds went to the Nicaraguan guerrillas.

Murphy, Rabin hold talks

(Continued from page 1)

Middle East peace process, but offer no new peace initiatives.

It said Washington also sought to use the visit to consolidate its position in the Arab World, which had been shaken by the secret shipment of American arms supplies to Iran.

Mondale criticises Reagan

Former Vice President Walter Mondale suggested Thursday that the "U.S. give more aid to Palestinians in the occupied

territories to pave the way for peace talks between Israel and Jordan.

"I think there is potential in trying to help improve the West Bank, so people there have a better life, so there's more stability," Mr. Mondale, who is currently in Israel, said in an interview with the Associated Press.

Press. Mr. Mondale also called on President Ronald Reagan to give "more personal attention" to the Middle East to make U.S.-backed peace efforts work.

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ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Friday's

Al Ra'i: The world knows better

AS U.S. envoy Richard Murphy started a visit to Israel the Israeli government started a propaganda campaign directed against Jordan claiming that the key to the Palestine problem lies with Amman. The Israelis maintain that Jordan has to start negotiations with Israel to reach a solution for that problem. It is clear that the campaign is designed to show the world that it is Jordan which is delaying a peaceful settlement for the Arab-Israeli conflict and that Jordan, not Israel, is responsible for the current stalemate in the peace efforts. Needless to say this harmful campaign is not the first of its kind, but it must be pointed out that it is intended to deceive the world with this idea at a time when the U.S. envoy is touring the region with the intention of giving Israel's claims some credibility. But for the Arabs, it is clear that the Israelis are maintaining a vicious circle that can lead to no solution at all. In addition an announcement in Israel that an Arab personality has been appointed to serve as Israel's touring ambassador in the Arab World to explain Israel's views is another ploy for deceiving the world and points to the fact that Tel Aviv has now planned a large-scale propaganda campaign intended to create confusion and deceive world public opinion with false pretences. The whole point is to counter Jordan's stand which calls for an international conference to settle the Palestine issue and to involve the PLO in that conference as a representative of the Palestinian people. We hope that the U.S. would not be part of such propaganda campaigns.

Al Dustour: U.S. defending racism

THE United States on Thursday distributed a declaration from its Congress calling on the United Nations to cancel a resolution taken by the U.N. General Assembly 10 years ago in which the assembly considered Zionism as another form of racism. The United Nations has of course reached this decision following a detailed examination of evidence and proof of the nature of Zionism in the light of this movement's practices and atrocities against the Palestinian people. But the United States now seems intent on trying to save Zionism from this worldwide condemnation because the American administration does not see in Israel's practices any violation of human rights. Washington is closing its eyes to Israel's inhuman practices against the Arab population and against humanity far exceeding the atrocities of the South African regime. Israel has been committing one crime after the other in the occupied Arab territories in total disregard of human rights and international principles, and has been supported in its actions and its crimes by the United States which is now trying to justify Tel Aviv's policies. Washington has been also serving as protector of Israel at the Security Council against further world condemnation and has been colluding with Tel Aviv in its aggression on the Arab Nation and its interests. We regret such American attitude but it is our duty to remind the Arab and Muslim nations to take proper action to counter Washington's moves.

Sawi Al Shaab: Israeli peace

ISRAEL'S statements before and during Mr. Richard Murphy's current visit to Israel reflect clearly that Tel Aviv is not concerned with the establishment of peace in the Middle East. Yitzhak Shamir has reiterated Israel's stand that it will never give up any of the territories it occupied in 1967 as it considers it as land of Israel. He said that Israel offered concessions in the Camp David accord, will not offer any more compromises to the Arabs at any cost. In the presence of the U.S. envoy, Shamir reiterated also that Israel rejects the idea of an international conference and does not wish to sit with countries which do not recognise Israel's existence. These statements point clearly that Israel would never respond favourably to any peace bids, and implies that the United States would support Tel Aviv's stand with regard to the Middle East question. For its part the U.S. has already announced its rejection of the idea of an international conference, and Richard Murphy is not carrying new ideas for peace in his current tour. For this reason, we consider Israel and the United States as both responsible for the delay in the solution of the Middle East problem and are both obstructing peace. The Arabs for their part cannot offer any more for reaching peace and the U.S.-Israeli stand is totally unacceptable to the Arab Nation in any form or way. The only reply to such intransigent stand is real solidarity among Arab countries and joint action for confronting the common challenges.

Thursday's

Al Ra'i: In support of Iraq

KING Hussein's visit to Baghdad and his talks with Iraqi leaders are part of Jordanian-Iraqi coordinated efforts for strengthening Arab ranks in the face of the common dangers. It is natural for the King and President Saddam Hussein to discuss the developments in the Iran-Iraq war, and the upcoming Islamic summit in Kuwait which is bound to discuss the Gulf conflict and means of ending the bloodshed between Iran and Iraq. The talks are also to cover a current tour of the region by U.S. envoy Richard Murphy and other topics of concern to the two countries. We are gratified to hear Iraq calling for peace from a position of strength; and we are proud of the Iraqi armed forces strength and hope that the coming Islamic summit in Kuwait will find means of ending this conflict once and for all. But, we are also concerned that the Iranians are continuously massing troops along the Iraqi border threatening another offensive which is bound to be doomed, but which is certain to see the death of many Iranian troops being sacrificed by the Tehran regime, which is continuously ignoring bids for a lasting peace.

Al Dustour: Shamir rejects real peace

IN his meeting with the U.S. envoy, Mr. Richard Murphy, King Hussein reiterated Jordan's firm policies with regard to the Middle East issue, and he renewed Jordan's call for an international conference to end the Arab-Israeli conflict. The King's bid for the establishment of a lasting peace has been met with a hostile action from Israel where Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir told the U.S. envoy that Tel Aviv would never agree to the convening of an international conference to solve the Middle East issue. Shamir said that Israel will never give up an iota of what he called "the land of Israel" and added that what has been offered in the Camp David agreement was the last compromise.

VIEW FROM AMMAN

Murphy comes and goes, but agenda remains the same

By Dr. Kamel Abu Jaber

AN ancient Chinese philosopher once remarked that every man has a scheme that will not work. Judging from the past, it looks like whatever scheme Mr. Richard Murphy has, that is to say if he has one, it too will not work. But then, perhaps that too is the idea: that there should not be any progress made, and that there is no reason to change the situation as it now exists in the Middle East. Looking at the situation from the vantage point of Washington it is not a bad one: Israel is in control of the occupied territories, and its creeping annexation is proceeding according to schedule and no-one, certainly nobody in the area, poses any serious threat to its security. The moderates are also managing rather well—at least for the time being—while the radicals are at each other's throat and the Soviet Union remains in the Afghan quagmire. Iran is unleashing its wrath at the eastern gate of the Arab Nation while Israel does the same in the west, and the Arabs are confused and disoriented enough to please their enemies.

Thus another trip by Mr. Murphy to the area is not an unwelcome one. Surely he will find some more facts, say some interesting things, raise some hopes among the hopeless, get things into motion though no apparent activity will result, and keep our mass media busy for a few days. Certainly someone is going to say that this is a very cynical view. So be it. Every society needs its devil's advocates, its non-conformists, cynics even a heretic or a deviant once in a while, otherwise it will settle into its complacency or even lethargy.

But then that is a digression and I must get back to the trip of Mr. Murphy. If anything characterises American policy in the Middle East since 1967, it is a "crisis management" not "problem solving" approach. Now if you are managing a crisis your attitude is that of keeping it in proportion, preferably containing, rather than solving it.

Such an approach, unfortunately, has been working for the benefit of Israel, which is ever so keen on maintaining the no-war-no-peace status quo until it swallows whatever is left of Palestine and maybe other territories beyond.

As Arabs we welcome Mr. Murphy coming to our homeland but I wonder if we have anything more to explain to him. We have no new facts and in our disarray and confusion we cannot offer much initiative except perhaps to tell Mr. Murphy that the radicals amongst us were right all along. They say that nothing can cut steel except steel and that, given time, and while Israel is creating more havoc with our mind and soul; we will learn. Over 35 centuries ago there were people here in Amman called the Ammonites who built round-towers, modest homes, filled the land and raised families. Now they are gone, though I hope there are traces of their blood and civilisation in ours of Amman today. History has time and it can wait, especially when the cause is so just. That is a fact that no-one can obliterate even if under the force of circumstances we cringe with the fear of Israel and its devastating power. The Middle East was, and will always be a land of constant surprises. Its pleasant oases, shifting sands, even its mirages are facts that support and nurture the people who once carved and one day will carve again another flowering civilisation out of its harsh terrain. Underneath the comings and goings of conquerors, our people have always been there making a living, storing memories and compromising with life.

If facts are sought they can easily be found. "Seek and you shall receive" and "Knock" ... our doors have always been open. Ahlan wa sahlan, welcome to those who come to our doors in sincerity. We hope that is how you are coming: in sincerity and not to create for us further false hopes, further illusions. We say that knowledge can be

acquired by anyone and we hope that it is wisdom that you seek: the wisdom to search for peace, to press for it and to advise your friends in Israel that the path they are treading is the path of war; That if now we cannot make war now we are learning to. We do not ask, not anymore, that the United States abandon Israel if that is what it wants. We no longer speak of justice in a world that makes a mockery of the concept. We speak of an honorable compromise, a settlement that my children's children can live with. And when we say we are afraid of Israel it is not the fear of cowardice but that of wisdom where the force of life must win over that of death. The Israelis, or most of them cannot think straight. Some of them have literally escaped the Hitler furnaces and Western ghettos. Dizzy with their fears, insecurity and victories they are like men hit on the head with a blunt instrument: they cannot think straight. That is the time for the helping hand of a friend. That is the time when a friend must tell his friend that what he is doing to others is ultimately, his own destruction. Sight is never enough for survival—decent survival that is—it is vision that is needed. The vision to go beyond the statistics, the facts and the apparent realities to the heart of the matter.

We have always lived with crises and thus we are not in need for someone to manage but to solve them, or at least try to. And now we look like a defeated people; that is just another crisis. In time we will react properly though now the unknown wonder in our soul remains unknown. Until now and by the force of arms, Israel is in the Middle East but not of it. We hope for peace so we can get along with our lives, building schools, creating and building for the future, and while there is soft elegance in our souls there is also fierce durability. I say greetings to Jerusalem!

Israel's second republic: The 'crazy state'

By Meron Benvenisti

The writer is an Israeli peace activist and scholar. His article first appeared in the Israeli newspaper Davar, and later in English in The Jerusalem Post.

IN EVERY discussion of subjects related to the West Bank and Gaza Strip—riots, settlements, demography, political initiatives—the mechanisms of suppression go into immediate action. Facts, data, processes, tools of analysis and control, scientific disciplines, sober situation assessments—all these undergo a process of smelting and refining. The impurities—i.e. unpleasant facts—are thrown on to the garbage heap of prophecies of doom, while the refined material is placed in the mould of the prevailing "concept" and emerges in processed form: familiar, soothing and non-threatening.

Perceptions shape reality, not the reverse. Conceptual framework filters fact and data: cosy answers seeking facile questions. Time has apparently stood still. Issues raised twenty years ago are perceived as perennially relevant, and are "solved" in the same way as they were "solved" in the past (Resolution 242, the Allon Plan, the iron fist policy). Dilemmas defined a generation ago never seem to turn into problems requiring immediate decisions; all dangers are projected on to the distant future; all options remain open; all processes are reversible; time is on our side; we are still right, good, sane and wise.

Someone else is to blame: The PLO, the left, the Likud, Gush Emunim. Compared to what the future could bring, the present is not so terrible.

The status quo is preferable to all alternatives; subjective will (so teaches our Zionist heritage) can always overcome objective reality. Others maintain the opposite: objective reality, in the form of external pressure, war, demographic threat, will unravel the net in which we have become ensnared, without our having to do anything about it. What must happen (mass immigration from the Soviet Union; Arab acquiescence in our existence; American pressure for withdrawal; the victory of "some camp"; the credo of "The strength of Israel will not lie") will indeed come to pass.

We, the strong, sane and pragmatic centre, must shut out reality, steer clear of cognitive dissonance, and insoluble conflict between the image we like to present to the world, and reality. If we become paralysed by fear we shall not go about our business as usual.

We must therefore ignore the phantoms whispering that the future has already arrived, that we have passed the point of no return, that we have crossed the red line. If not, we will have to act: change our image of ourselves, confront a disaster which has already taken place.

We shall no longer be able to rely on the "peace process," the "Jordanian option," "authentic Palestinian leaders." We shall no longer be able to believe that "the PLO is maturing the riots"; believe in "the death throes of the PLO," in "functional partition," "unilateral autonomy," "benign occupation," "improving the quality of life," "purity of arms," "acting according to procedures," "law and order," and in "investigations commissioned by the IDF spokesman."

We must define the problem in clinical terms of security and politics, ignoring messy economic, social and psychological processes. And, at all costs, we must ignore the passage of time. We dare not look in the mirror; we must either cover it or smash it. I can offer them no

consolation," wrote Sigmund Freud, "for at bottom that is what they are all demanding, the wildest revolutionaries no less passionately than the most virtuous believers." Naked reality can offer us no consolation.

On the seventh day of the Six-Day War the Second Israeli Republic was established in the Land of Israel. Its political, social, economic and administrative systems took form gradually, and are now consolidated, twenty years later.

Its government rules over all mandatory Palestine, and has the monopoly on governmental coercive power in the entire area under its dominion. The distinction between Israel's sovereign territory and the area in which it rules by military government has long since lost its meaning, as it acts as sovereign, for all intents and purposes, in the whole of the area west of the Jordan river, changing the law as it wishes, and creating permanent facts.

The key to all legislation in the territories is the formulation: "anyone empowered to act in Israel according to Israeli law may so act in the territories." The Defence Ministry, through the Civil Administration, is, in effect, military governor of the "local" population, its jurisdiction being defined not as territorial, but ethnic. The Ministry of Housing decides how many flats will be built in Ariel and Kiryat Arba, in the same way as it decides how many apartments will be built in Petah Tikva.

All Israeli objectives have been attained in the territories and Jewish interests have been assured. The process of economic integration has long since been accomplished; infrastructure grids have been linked (roads, electricity, water, communications); administrative systems have been unified; social stratification has become institutionalised and political relationships have settled into well-established patterns.

The Second Israeli Republic is a bi-national entity with a rigid, hierarchical social structure based on ethnicity. Three-and-a-half million Jewish Israelis hold total monopoly over governmental resources, control the economy, form the upper social stratum and determine the educational and national values and objectives of the republic.

The two million Palestinians divide into Israeli Palestinians and the Palestinians in the territories. Though the former are citizens of the republic, their citizenship does not assure them equality in law as one crucial test of citizenship is military service, and Israeli Palestinians who are exempt from service are, as a result, second-class citizens.

The remaining one-and-a-half million Palestinians are citizens of a foreign state (in the West Bank) or stateless altogether (in Gaza). They are deprived of all political rights, ostensibly because they are under military occupation, though even their rights under international conventions governing military occupation are not assured, since the government of the republic does not recognise the application of these conventions to the territories.

The ethnic groups maintain economic interaction defined in professional literature as "internal colonialism," that is, the inferior ethnic group serves both as cheap labour and a market for finished consumer goods.

The Second Republic is, by any objective standard, a dual society and a political system whose technical term, again, in professional literature, is "Herrenvolk Democracy." The only reason this has not been universally acknowledged is that

the territories have not been formally annexed.

At the same time, everyone senses that chances of resolving the situation, which is intolerable (from a moral and liberal point of view) by ceding territory, is no longer feasible, and all other "solutions," such as autonomy, merely legitimise the status quo.

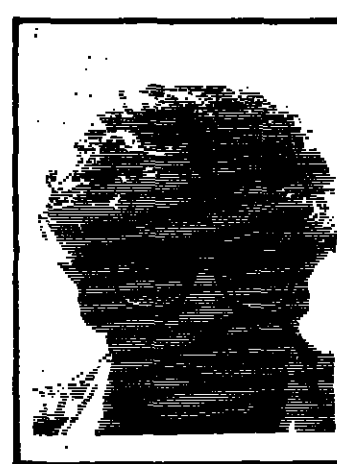
Communal strife wages in the Second Israeli Republic. There is a perpetual conflict, not necessarily violent, between the Jewish majority group that seeks to maintain its superiority, and the Arab minority group that seeks to free itself from majority tyranny.

The majority community perceives the struggle as one of "law and order." The minority community, which does not regard the regime as legitimate, seeks to destroy it.

Both communities deny each other's standing as a legitimate collective. Hence, the Arabs define Zionism (the expression of the collective aspirations of the Jewish people) as racism—ergo illegitimate. The Israelis, in their turn, define Palestinian nationalism as PLO terrorism—ergo illegitimate. This delegitimisation is vital for both sides. For it enables both to believe in the exclusivity of their claim and in the absolute justice of their position.

Both communities, though internally divided, outwardly present a monolithic facade. The Israeli consensus comprising the vast majority of the Jewish group is united in its aspiration to preserve the Jewish character of the Second Republic, i.e. its superior status, even at the cost of democratic values.

While the differences between the main Jewish political factions are those of emphasis, style and abstract moral scruples, even these vanish utterly on the daily



Meron Benvenisti

tactical level.

The vast majority of the Arab group is united in the desire to destroy Jewish hegemony, and is divided only over the most effective method of achieving their objective: armed struggle or "sumud," steadfastness. Just as all Israelis are Zionists, so too, are all Arabs PLO.

The dynamic of the Israeli-Palestinian communal strife is similar to that of intercommunal conflicts everywhere—from Beirut to Belfast. It is waged in an endless cycle of violence, enforcement, domination, containment—fights over every piece of land, every tree.

It is accompanied by the development of stereotypes, a lowering of the threshold of moral sensitivity, the loss of humanistic values, and despair leading ultimately to psychological withdrawal, to anarchy or fundamentalism.

The carrot-and-stick method which, in the absence of long-term policy, is the inevitable means of control—only exacerbates the conflict. The rise in the standard of

living of the subject population sharpens its feelings of frustration and outrage. Exposure to the open society hastens the modernisation process of the minority and the sophistication of its political struggle.

The conflict erupts periodically, usually following an unplanned provocation, and quickly dies down. But violence simmers just below the surface. It is an endemic condition, lacking a durable solution.

The actual existence of the Second Israeli Republic is not in danger. The conflict between Israel and the Arab states has effectively come to an end. Even if it flares up on the Syrian front, it will bring no geo-political changes in its train. Neither are grim forecasts of disintegration of the republic from within, as a result of communal strife, plausible.

The balance of power between the Jewish and Arab communities is decisively in favour of the Jews, and the gap is widening. The resources at the disposal of the government and the sophistication of its system of enforcement, ensure that any attempt to threaten the system will be crushed.

The strength of the system is based on the cohesiveness of the Jewish consensus and its readiness to support the regime. Such support is guaranteed because the political centre perceives the conflict in terms of survival. Terrorist activity and extreme demonstrations of political protest by the minority sharpen the feeling that there is no real alternative and act to strengthen belief in the justice of the cause.

Suppression of the unpleasant aspects of reality is a central element in the solidity of the Jewish national consensus. Ignoring the dual system upon

which the Republic is based: the ethnic stratification of superiors and inferiors, serves as a barrier against unresolvable ideological and cognitive contradictions.

The continuing theoretical discussion of long-range dilemmas and the dangers of a bi-national political entity serve as safety valve for release of pressures on the conscience. The status quo is perceived as tolerable, because an unflinching analysis of its implications would only raise unanswerable questions and spell dangers for national consensus.

Hence, even after these years people still carry on agonising over theoretical dilemmas, though these have long since been transformed into practical problems which have, in effect, already been solved through force of inertia.

Self-delusion, therefore, plays a vital role in maintaining sanity and sense of tribal affiliation. It could be maintained indefinitely if Israelis lived on a desert island, and did not lay claim to universal values of equality and human dignity.

When the character of the Second Israeli Republic becomes clear to the objective observer, when the outside world manages to overcome its reticence about preaching morals to the Jews, when feelings of shame overcome the defence mechanisms of "a nation apart," which Jews have developed over two thousand years of dispersion, then our self-serving delusions will finally be shattered.

But then it might be too late. Self-delusion will then have deteriorated to the point of loss of all contact with reality, and the Second Israeli Republic, which, from its birth, manifested worrisome signs of emotional instability, will then become a "crazy state."

Deng ordered tougher line on protest

By Stephen Nisbet

PEKING—Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping secretly ordered a tougher line against pro-democracy demonstrations when unrest spread to Peking after student rallies in Shanghai brought tens of thousands onto the streets last month, according to informed sources.

His message to senior officials, at variance with the relatively liberal image Deng has in some university quarters, ordered the authorities to "be a little tougher" in handling street protests.

Deng's hand-written four-line note to security authorities, written in traditional epigrammatic style, translates as follows: "Your tone should be a little tougher. You should show more firmness. You have to make clear the separation between positive and negative. You must work on the students to understand them."

Two days after the Dec. 29 instruction, the tone of anti-demonstration propaganda in the official press hardened, suggesting a conservative backlash against the month-long student campaign to speed up political reform.

The note, which the sources said was appended to a report on campus unrest by the Communist Party secretariat, helped set the mood of police preparations for a defiant New Year's Day student rally in central Peking.

Armed with five-day-old laws strictly curtailing street protests in Peking, and banning them altogether around the Great Hall of the People and Communist Party headquarters, police were ready to crack down on students

whose fellows in a dozen other cities had staged similar rallies without a single known arrest.

On Jan. 1, police detained more than 30 of about 1,000 students who twice charged police lines in the Tiananmen Square, in the shadow of the Great Hall of the People.

They were held for hours for interrogation in two central Peking detention centres, and two were beaten, the sources said.

But police were stopped from pursuing this harder line and the detainees were freed when high officials judged them to have gone too far, at least as far as students were concerned.

Analysts said security officials were furious at the way their hands were tied by Vice-Premier Li Peng and Peking University President Ding Shisun, who telephoned them late on the night of Jan. 1 to order the students' release.

"Li Peng ordered that all the students—and only the students—be freed," one source said.

He said this was evidence of what many had suspected: that students are being handled more gently than others in the current unrest, because of a high government policy decision.

Analysts said the apparent immunity given students to insult the Communist Party—by burning official newspapers, for instance—indicated that China's rulers hoped to gain something from the ferment.

In the closed world of top Chinese politics, most diplomats perceive a struggle between liberals and conservatives on the scope and pace of political reforms as part of China's modernisation.

Deng last autumn frequently stressed the need for urgent yet prudent steps to set a programme

of political reform to advance "socialist democracy."

"Socialist democracy" has little resemblance to democracy as Westerners define it. Deng and other leaders say there must be no questioning of the Communist Party's right to run China, in a one-party system.

Deng is more concerned with streamlining bureaucracy and freeing managers of state enterprises from day-to-day interference by party officials.

Deng, at the age of 82, feels some urgency about getting firm proposals through a major party congress next October.

But others have prudence uppermost in their minds as they contemplate the upheaval involved in asking many of the 44-million member Communist Party to give up powerful functions.

Analysts said Deng and his backers, seeking support from outside the party to combat opposition within it, welcomed the momentum which student rallies could give the reformist cause.

But the secret message showed he did not hesitate in lending his weight to the campaign unleashed by conservatives, in order to begin limiting the area of permissible debate and ensuring that unrest did not spread to workers.

One analyst said the note was Deng's first concession to the conservatives, who have been shouting from the rooftops in the last few days about the need to stop poisonous "bourgeois liberalism" spreading in the present climate or relatively free debate.

Publicly, Deng remained silent about the demonstrations but the official People's Daily quoted attacks he made against bourgeois liberals in 1979, the year he

stopped the "democracy wall" movement of free expression by the traditional means of wall posters.

"This man has two faces," one source said, contrasting this evidence of Deng the conservative with that of Deng the liberal—who was praised in some of the placards paraded by students.

The mixture of student demands in campus and street rallies included asset—"support Deng and the reformers"—as well as dissent—"free press and a multi-party system."

Analysts said Deng's reference to distinguishing good from bad appeared to reflect a concern that student activism should not be crushed but instead channelled more exclusively into assent for the Dengist reforms.

They said rallies would die down during this month's examinations and the Chinese new year holidays but could be revived in March.

They said a major student rally in Peking in favour of limited political reform was a possibility but had not so far been judged opportune.

Despite the euphoria among some demonstrators that they got away with their actions, there has been hint of dialogue with party elders who see them at best as overly impatient or misguided innocents led on by schemers hostile to socialism.

Meanwhile, the image of China that reaches foreigners' television screens may not be displeasing to the Dengists, one analyst said.

"They see street demonstrations and think China is a country with freedom of speech," he said. "This fits into the image Deng likes to give abroad. He's a smart one, is Deng."

Handwritten note: Deng, in his...

Britain wrestles with growing problem of child abuse

By Alan Elmer
Reuter

LONDON — In Britain, which gave the world such delightful and carefree images of childhood as Winnie the Pooh and Peter Pan, between three and four children die every week as a result of parental cruelty or neglect.

The figure was released earlier this month in the annual report of the National Society, for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC).

Social care experts, who fear Britain is facing a child abuse crisis, say the figures may be only the tip of an iceberg.

A new charity launched last month to run "Childline", a free telephone service for children in trouble or in danger, received around 500 calls every day during its first four weeks of operations.

Many of those calling the child line offices hung up before saying to the counsellors at the other end of the line. Several thousand others poured out their

troubles in painful conversations that sometimes went on for hours.

"We had no idea that child abuse, particularly sexual abuse, was as common as it is," said Childline director Paul Griffiths.

"In one month, we have documented over 1,000 causes of children suffering from sexual abuse and there's no way that young children can make these kind of stories up," he said.

Available statistics suggest that as many as one in 10 British children are molested. Some experts believe the true figure is even higher.

"The British family is a very private and protected place and it is unlikely that the dark figure of sexual abuse will ever be known," said David Pithers, a psychotherapist at the National Children's Home, a voluntary organisation offering medical and financial aid to children.

The problem of child abuse came to the public eye last year in a series of court cases involving parents accused of killing or

maintaining their children.

In the case of one four-year-old, Jasmine Beckford, social workers visited her house 78 times in the year before her death but failed to notice that her stepfather was starving and torturing her. Finally, he beat her to death.

In another case, a father locked his baby daughter in her bedroom because she would not stop crying. When she eventually starved to death, he left the decaying body there for several months until it was discovered by police, who were alerted by a suspicious neighbour.

According to the NSPCC, the number of reported cases of sexual abuse of children more than doubled last year, while there was a two-thirds rise in serious or fatal injuries.

NSPCC director Alan Gilmour said it was unclear how much the increase was a result of better reporting and how much it reflected an actual increase in abuse.

Dr. Gilmour said the problem

was partly due to external problems such as unemployment, debt and poor housing and partly to marital discord and inability to deal with normal childhood behaviour.

Paul Griffiths estimated that only about one fifth of all child abuse incidents ever came to the knowledge of the authorities. Ninety per cent of those calling Childline were careful to protect their anonymity, he said.

"Children instinctively know that intervention of the authorities will mean people coming in, breaking up their families and taking them into institutions," he said.

One Childline counsellor Pat Chrisfield said many children found it almost unbearably painful to talk about their experiences.

"Many are silent at first. Some call back many times and their stories come out a little at a time. They need time and encouragement to recall their pain and fear," she said.

"A child who has been raped,

perhaps regularly, feels fear, shame, humiliation, guilt, helplessness, self-disgust and often physical pain. That's a lot for a child to live with," she said.

Child caring agencies also complain of the difficulty of bringing abusers to justice. Under the British legal system, children in such cases have to face the ordeal of testifying in court, yet courts are reluctant to accept their evidence without corroboration.

The government recently said it was considering the possible use of a video link to prevent children from having to appear in the courtroom. But the suggestion is being opposed by the legal establishment.

"The fact of the matter is we do not listen to children enough. We are too accustomed to regarding them as a messy nuisance," said Griffiths.

"If we continue to believe that children should be seen and not heard, their silence protects the molester," he said.



Paradise Postponed — Friday at 10:20

Jordan Television Channel Two Preview

Saturday, Jan. 10, 1987	Monday, Jan. 12, 1987	Thursday, Jan. 15, 1987
8:30 Dad's Army	8:30 No Place Like Home	8:30 Growing Pains
9:00 Spotlight	9:10 Sandokan (Part Two)	9:10 Remington Steele
9:10 Saturday Variety Show	After the pirate saves her life during a tiger hunt, Marianna admits that she is in love with him. Sandokan's bold rescue reveals his identity to the English, and only a spectacular elephant charge allows their escape.	Spring Time For Steel
10:20 Feature Film The Last of Sheila	10:20 The Ballerinas. (Part Two)	Remington and Laura become entangled with a theatre singer, who is convinced that someone is out to kill her.
Starring: Richard Benjamin, Dyan Cannon and James Mason.	Written by Harrold Robbins	10:20 Feature Film Stiletto
A Hollywood star is killed by a hit-and-run driver. A year later her husband invites six friends to his yacht, and murders begin.	Starring: Alex Cord, Britt Ekland	
Sunday, Jan. 11, 1987	Tuesday, Jan. 13, 1987	Friday, Jan. 16, 1987
8:30 Who's The Boss	8:30 Music Box	8:30 Throb
9:10 The story of S.O.E. (Documentary — last episode)	9:30 Ever Decreasing Circles (New Comedy Series)	Getting to Know You
Arms and the Dragon	10:20 The Fourth Arm (Episode Two)	9:10 Falcon Crest
In 1941 the Japanese were poised to invade the rich colonies of South-East Asia and SOE was facing new challenges in the jungles and kampongs of Malaya. Short of wireless equipment and supplies, unable to find local recruits, and forced to stay in the jungle to hide their conspicuous white skins, SOE officers faced appalling difficulties. The short-term solution was to recruit Chinese Communists, already experienced in pre-war subversion operations against the British.	Wednesday, Jan. 14, 1987	Shadows
10:20 Murder, She Wrote	8:30 Three's Company	10:20 Paradise Postponed (Episode Three)
If The Frame Fits	9:10 The Africans (Episode Two)	Cheer Titmuss
	For centuries Europeans regarded Africa merely as a land mass to be circumnavigated on the way to the riches of the Indies, while for Islam the Nile had been a highway to the continent's interior. Eventually it was to be Africa's very geography and climate, which were to dictate where the outsiders could and could not go.	Leslie Titmuss, now an ambitious young conservative begins to map out his future. Sir Nicholas and Lady Grace Fanner have no reason to suppose they are involved in his plans, until Leslie embarrasses them in public. Charlotte finds her parents' discomfort amusing.
	10:20 Bestseller Aspen	

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Women traders of Ondo might offer hints to others

By Mercer Cross
National Geographic

WASHINGTON — The economically independent women of Ondo, Nigeria, might have a thing or two to say to other women who are striving for economic parity.

In a tradition dating from the accession of a woman king 600 or 700 years ago, the Yoruba women have been guardians of their own pocketbooks. In Ondo, a trade centre in south western Nigeria, the women are traders and the men are farmers.

Husbands and wives never pool their resources. The women traditionally have had cash, while the men have had to barter with produce. Custom dictates how their separate incomes are allocated for household and family expenses. Often the wife is considerably wealthier than her husband.

Dealing between spouses

"Even between husband and wife, it's all bargaining," says Elizabeth Anne Eames, a candidate for a doctorate in anthropology at Harvard University. Her dissertation is on the women of Ondo. She has lived among them for two and a half years, with support from the National Geographic Society.

It all began between A.D. 1400 and 1500, after twins had been born to the king of Ife, Nigeria, the centre of the Yoruba world. In those days twins, considered abnormal, were killed. To save his twins, the king sent them away. The female twin, Pupupu, later founded Ondo; her twin brother founded a nearby town.

Initially, Pupupu ruled Ondo alone. But before long she was forced to share her throne with a man. Versions differ, according to sex, on how this came about.

The male chiefs contend that in the middle of a council session with her chiefs, Pupupu stood up and said it was getting late and she had to tend to her chickens.

But the female chiefs assert, according to Ms. Eames, that Pupupu simply became old, "so old that hair was growing out of

her ears, and it got so she couldn't hear anything," and so her chiefs begged her to step down.

Regardless of either account's accuracy, a new hierarchy was established, and it continues to this day. Ondo has both a male and a female king, both descendants of Pupupu. (In Yoruba terminology, the ruler is a king, regardless of sex). There are two 18-member cabinets, one all men and the other all women.

The woman king and her cabinet have jurisdiction over all economic matters, including the town market, and over all disputes involving women.

The man king and his cabinet have more political strength, because they are part of the governmental structure of the Nigerian state. In what Ms. Eames sees as a vestige of British colonial rule — Nigeria became independent in 1960 — men cabinet members, or senior chiefs, receive a salary. Women chiefs don't.

Roles begin to blur

That isn't the only inequality. Old ways are beginning to atrophy, Ms. Eames says, and "women's roles are becoming less clear, less important."

In a shift that began after World War II, money has poured into Nigeria from other parts of the world, especially into the country's bustling oil industry. Ondo's male chiefs have assumed increasingly important roles in the big international deals, while the women have been relegated to their traditional position as traders and shopkeepers.

"Now I can see the separate budget idea working to the detriment of the women in the sense that a lot of men have more money," Ms. Eames says.

Still, the women chiefs of Ondo control much of the town's wealth. Each November, they and their followers celebrate the Odun Aje festival, dedicated to Aje, the Yoruba god of wealth and profit.

Ms. Eames was in Ondo last November for the one-day festival. A week after it ended, she was treated to the extraordinary

spectacle of a 10-day strike by the town's women. The strike was ignited by the state's imposition of an annual tax of about \$200 on the women, about the equivalent of a year's tuition for two schoolchildren.

Enraged, the women chiefs informed the governor that they refused to pay. They closed the market and marched forth in orderly ranks. Then they broke into a riot and ran screaming through the town. "It was mayhem," Ms. Eames says.

Some of the women penetrated forbidden parts of the male king's palace, where they stripped off their clothes and cursed him. "Apparently a naked woman's curse is the worst thing that could ever happen to somebody," Ms. Eames says. "It's like sure death."

Monarch's revenge

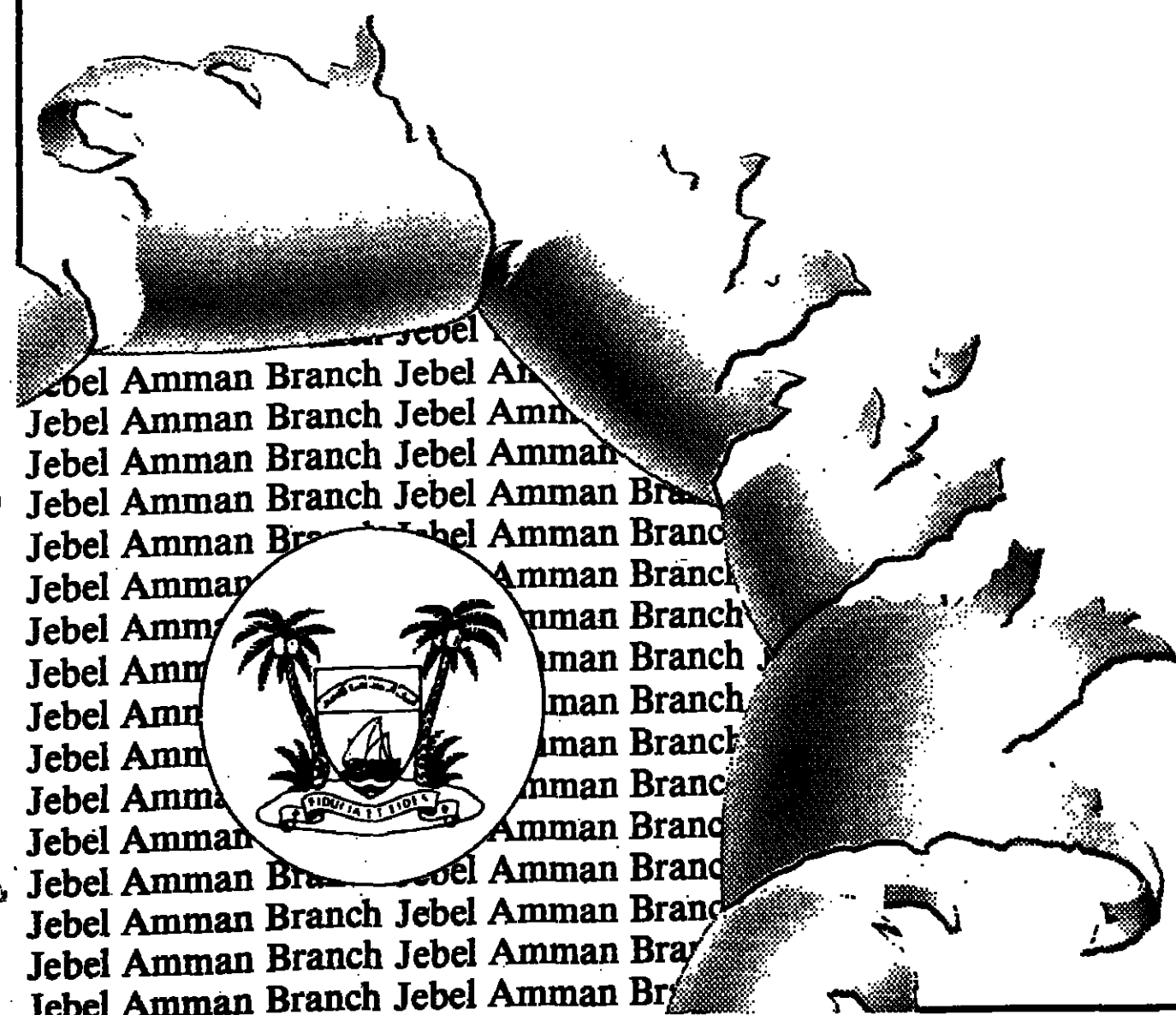
The king, still quite alive, reportedly retaliated by going to the market and making a sacrifice that would have the effect of killing anyone who came there. The women chiefs vowed never to go there again.

Finally, the third-in-command chief, an honourable and respected man, called a meeting of the women in the town soccer stadium and negotiated a settlement: Only women who owned cement buildings — the relatively well-off ones — would pay new tax. Thus was calm restored to Ondo.

Within individual households, Ms. Eames says, disputes between husbands and wives usually aren't touched off by money matters. They're more likely to arise over jealousy between wives. The Yoruba are polygamous, so men have several wives. "It's very important to have a diplomatic husband," Ms. Eames says.

Polygamy isn't likely to catch hold in the United States, but Ms. Eames has learned one lesson from the Yoruba that might be applicable here.

"Women who have their own economic resources and their own control of a product have a better bargaining position in a family," she says.



West Germany edges Italy in riveting Pele Cup match

SAO PAULO, Brazil (AP) — West Germany beat Italy 2-1 in the fourth game of the Pele Cup soccer tournament of former soccer greats over 34 years old.

The match, one the most riveting so far, was played in the Vila Belmiro Stadium Thursday in the port town of Santos in a sweltering 35 degree centigrade (95 fahrenheit).

Few fans made the 72 kilometre trip from Sao Paulo to see former soccer stars as West Germany's midfielder, Paul Breitner, a member of the 1974 World Championship team, or Italy's midfielder Boninsegna, who played in the 1970 World Cup.

The first goal of the game was scored by Breitner in a penalty shot only six minutes into the first half, while the second and third goals were scored in the second half.

Ten minutes after halftime midfielder Geyse made a point for West Germany and in the last minute of the game, Damiani made the third and last score.

West Germany began the first half at a fast pace, placing the ball well, while Italy missed crucial

passes and struggled to keep up with the speed of its adversaries.

West Germany made early attempts on the net and made a first goal at six minutes in a penalty shot by Breitner on left wing field.

The game's second goal came when West Germany's midfielder Geyse, who substituted Koppel, made a decisive shot on goal, shooting the ball neatly into the net.

But that was the only firm shot Italy's goalie, Bordon, let past him after half time, despite several firm West German attempts to score.

The final point came at 44 minutes when Italy's midfielder Damiani made a perfect corner shot on the West German goal, one of several such tries in the second time for the player, whose performance was strong.

Throughout the first half the West Germans showed a strong willingness to score, trying persistently for a second goal. Attack Fischer, one of the game's

top players, consistently placed the ball well. But with six fabled shots at goal in the first half, he was not able to follow through.

Italy was forced on the defensive, touching the ball up through the midfield but rarely moving into attack.

Some 15 minutes into the first half, though, the pace slowed as the players showed strains from the initial velocity. By the second half, the game was somewhat more balanced as players from both teams began to tire.

With the result, Brazil remained in the lead of the tourney which includes West Germany, Italy, Uruguay, and Italy, all countries that have won the World Cup at least twice. Brazil has won one game and tied a second, while West Germany, in second place, has won only one match but has more goals than the others.

The starting line-ups were: West Germany: Kieff, Zembiski, Russman, Weber, Muller, Kreiners, Koppel, Bersdorff, Breimer, Fischer, and Held.

Italy: Bordon, Poletti, Maldera, Turone, Belucci, Facchetti, Damiani, Marini, Boninsegna, Cucuredu and Scala.



GIANTS BATTLE: In the match to determine Jordan's Premier Soccer League winner, Al Faisali and Al Duffatein drew 1-1 at Amman Stadium on Friday. The draw forces a second match between the two clubs, each with 25 points, next Friday at Amman Stadium tentatively scheduled for 2:30 p.m. Al Faisali's goal was scored by Khalid Awad at 3 minutes before the interval. Al Duffatein's Taha Deib equalized at the 66th minute mark. In the photo, Al Duffatein's goalie Bassem Taem clears the ball after an Al Faisali corner kick, as his defenders guard the net. Should the second match end in a draw, the two teams will play a 30 minute overtime period, and if necessary, a penalty kick period (Photo by Abu Siman).

Barcelona returns to stadium of past failure

LONDON (R) — Barcelona will be given a painful reminder of past indiscretions when it returns to the Sanchez Pizjuan Stadium to play Seville in the Spanish first Division on Sunday.

It is 10 years since the Catalans last won in Seville and their record of two draws in that time suggests they will do well to salvage one point against a team who has adopted all the famous fighting qualities of Scottish coach Jack Wallace.

But Barcelona's most miserable hour in the Sanchez Pizjuan occurred last May when its quest to win the European Champions' Cup for the first time ended in failure against the then unheralded Steaua Bucharest of Romania.

It was Barcelona's failure to beat Steaua goalkeeper Helmut Ducadam once in 120 minutes of football and in the penalty shootout which spelled doom and convinced Terry Venables he should sign British strikers Gary Lineker and Mark Hughes.

Lineker made an immediate impression following his transfer from Everton and was quickly

among the goals before his scoring touch deserted him in November. Welshman Hughes has also struggled since his similar move from Manchester United.

But both men have been on target in the past two weeks after two months without a goal and their form will be crucial in the coming weeks as Barcelona attempts to maintain its three-point advantage over second-placed Real Madrid.

The Madrilenos have not been at their best of late. Held to a 2-2 draw at home by Sporting Gijon two weeks ago, they shared four goals again at Zaragoza last week despite leading 2-0 at one stage. Diego Maradona has been refreshingly contentious since assuming the captaincy of Napoli, who was nudged off the top of the Italian First Division by Giovanni Trapattoni's Internazionale Milan after losing at Fiorentina last week.

Unbeaten before the 3-1 defeat at Fiorentina, Napoli should return to its winning ways at home to bottom club Ascoli while later faces a hazardous trip to meet 1985 champion Verona.

Shriver advances to NSW semis

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — American Pam Shriver downed Sweden's Catarina Lindqvist 6-4, 6-2 Friday to advance to the semifinals of the \$150,000 New South Wales Open women's tennis championships.

Shriver, the tournament's second seed, used a powerful service and some crisp volleys to down Lindqvist, the ninth seed, in less than an hour and earned a meeting with fifth-seeded Manuela Maleeva of Bulgaria.

Maleeva, who is not normally comfortable on grass courts, conquered the fast surface to down unseeded Etsuko Inoue of Japan 4-6, 6-2, 6-2.

The other semifinal will pit sixth-seeded Zina Garrison of the United States against Australian veteran Wendy Turnbull, the 10th seed.

Garrison played aggressively and downed third-seeded Helena Sukova of Czechoslovakia, 6-3, 6-1, while Turnbull, who upset top-seeded Hana Mandlikova Thursday, beat seventh-seeded American Lori McNeil, 6-4, 7-5. Shriver, ranked fifth in the world, said she was playing some of the most consistent tennis of her career.

"If I'm serving and volleying, there is no way I should lose to baseliners, but I've learned there is no such thing as a sure thing in tennis," she said. "If I serve as well as I did today, I take it out of their hands."

Garrison was businesslike in scoring the first victory of her career over Sukova.

"I picked my shots," Garrison said. "She came in a lot on her second serves and gave me plenty of opportunities to pass her."

The tournament, the final warmup for next week's Australian Open, concludes Sunday.

Hippos get a charge out of golf tourney

PHALABORWA, South Africa (R) — A pair of hippopotamuses sent three golfers and their caddies running for their lives during a \$65,000 international tournament.

Paul Burley, a 25-year-old player from Grimsby, Northern England, disturbed the beasts after hitting his 17th tee shot into the rough on Thursday. He was lining up his second shot when there was a crashing noise in the thick bush behind him.

"Suddenly two hippos, one behind the other, came crashing out of the bush towards us. My caddie threw down my bag and was off across the fairway like a shot, and I was close behind," said Burley.

Burley "hurried up a bit" when he went back to take his shot and topped it badly, but still managed to make par.

Spanish boxer pummels opponent to take title

BILBAO, Spain (AP) — Alfredo Evangelista of Spain won the European boxing heavyweight title with a technical knock out over Andre Van Den Oetelaar of The Netherlands.

Evangelista, a native of Uruguay, won the title in the second minute of the fifth round of a scheduled 12-round bout Thursday.

Evangelista, 32, sent a series of hooks and blows to the face and body of his opponent in the last minute of the first round, putting him against the ropes and cutting his right eyebrow.

The Spanish boxer again dominated the second round, pummeling the body and head of the 32-year-old Dutch boxer, who was bleeding continuously from his opened eyebrow.

Evangelista fired and scored with the right again and again

during the third and fourth rounds while Oetelaar, against the ropes, tried to defend himself.

In the fifth and last round Evangelista sent a terrible right hook to the face of Oetelaar, 32, who went down for the count of eight.

Referee J. Bachelet of France stepped in to observe Oetelaar's condition, and then waved the end of the bout.

The fight was held at the Bilbao's Municipal Sports Pavilion in front of an estimated crowd of 5,000.

The European heavyweight title has been empty since the European Boxing Association disqualified Stefan Tangstad of Norway for not defending his title.

Evangelista's professional record is 74 bouts with nine defeats, while Oetelaar's record is 19-4.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Jordanian wins silver in chess tourney

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordanian chess player Bahjat Al Remawi has won a silver medal in the fourth Arab Chess Championship concluded Thursday in Tunis. The Royal Jordanian Chess Federation team returned to Amman on Thursday after taking part in the championship and in the meetings of the Arab Chess Federation general assembly concluded in Tunis on Thursday. The general assembly took a number of decisions among which was granting the medal of honour to His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the personal representative of His Majesty King Hussein. Prince Mohammad is also president of the Royal Jordanian Chess Federation. The general assembly also agreed on the return of Egypt to the Arab Federation's membership.

Australia IV's fate hangs in balance

FREMANTLE, Australia (AP) — The America's Cup protest jury, which has been hearing a petition to reopen a hearing which could knock Australia IV out of the defenders' finals, has adjourned without making a decision. The jury said Friday it adjourned "for the purpose of seeking further information." But it did not elaborate on what type of additional information it is seeking, or from what source. Kookaburra II has sought a rehearing on a protest it lost on the rigging of Australia IV's balloon jib in Tuesday race. Should it have a new hearing and win the protest, Kookaburra II would replace Australia IV in the best-of-nine defenders finals against Kookaburra III.

24-year-old leads elite golf tourney

CARLSBAD, California (AP) — Rick Fehr scrambled out of the trees with a 5-under-par 67 and took a two-stroke lead in the second round of the Tournament of Champions. "It was a day when all the right things happened. I drove in the trees three times and I made birdies all three times," said Fehr, 24, making his first appearance in this elite event that brings together the winners of 1986 PGA tour titles.

Polish climber plunges to death

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP) — A Polish climber fell 800 metres (2,624 feet) to his death on Mount Himalchuli's east peak in the first fatality of the month-old winter climbing season. Nepal's ministry of tourism said. The ministry said Thursday Jacek Klimczewicz, 34, a physicist from Wroclaw, fell on Dec. 30 while on his way down to the base camp from camp two, at 5,600 metres (18,368 feet).

Michael Jordan scores 53 in Bulls win

NEW YORK (AP) — Chicago's Michael Jordan says he's not a one-man team, but the Portland Trail Blazers might not believe him.

Jordan scored 53 points Thursday night to lead the Bulls to a 121-117 National Basketball Association victory over the Trail Blazers.

"I may have been a one-man team earlier in the season, but now we've gotten to our act together, and when you look at (Charles) Oakley's 16 points and 16 rebounds and (Brad) Sellers' 15 points and 10 rebounds, nobody can accuse me of being a one-man show," Jordan said.

In all, the acrobatic Jordan hit 20 of 34 field goal attempts and was 13 of 16 from the free throw line.

Jordan's previous regular-season high was 50 points

on Nov. 1 against New York. Last April, he scored 63 points in a playoff game against the Boston Celtics.

Jazz 107, Lakers 101

In Salt Lake City, Karl Malone scored 11 points in the final period and Thurl Bailey tallied Utah's last three baskets as the Jazz snapped the Lakers' eight-game winning streak. The victory also ended Utah's three-game losing string.

Bailey led the Jazz with 29 points, while Magic Johnson had 25 for the Los Angeles Lakers.

Rockets 110, Pacers 96

Ralph Sampson wasn't satisfied even though he was a big factor in leading the Rockets over the Indiana Pacers in Houston.

"I'm not overall happy. I played a good first half but had only one point in the second half," Sampson said.

Sampson finished with 16

rebounds — 10 in the first half — to go along with his 17 points.

Lewis Lloyd led Houston with 21 points, while Indiana's Wayman Tisdale took game honours with 24 points.

Cavaliers 103, Clippers 93

In Richfield, Ohio, guards Ron Harper and John Bagley scored 24 and 20 points, respectively, as Cleveland handed the visiting Clippers their 14th straight defeat.

Michael Cage led the Clippers with 20 points, including 15 in the final quarter.

Supersonics 115, Warriors 108

Dale Ellis tied his career high with 35 points to lead visiting Seattle over Golden State in Oakland.

Golden State was led by guards Eric Floyd and Chris Mullin with 23 and 22 points, respectively.

Mullin scored 19 of his points in the first half.

Harlem Globetrotters return to site of first game

HINCKLEY, Illinois (AP) — The Harlem Globetrotters were back where it all started, 60 years and millions of miles after a white promoter hit the road with a black basketball team in a broken-down Ford.

Hinckley, in suburban Chicago, site of the first game, was the setting for the anniversary contest Wednesday night. The Globetrotters, not surprisingly, downed the Washington Generals 94-74 before a capacity crowd of 1,000 at the Hinckley-Big Rock High School Gymnasium.

Edward King, who played on a local all-star team against the Globetrotters on that night 60 years ago, threw up the ceremonial jump ball to start the anniversary game.

Since the first game, the Globies have performed in scores of cities and villages around the world, delighting audiences as diverse as

a toe-tapping Pope Pius XII at Castel Gandolfo in Italy and all-black gatherings in Jackson, Mississippi.

The team got its start when a young Chicagoan named Abe Saperstein left his job with a park district squad and agreed to coach an all-black team from a local American Legion post.

The American Legion team eventually split in half, and Saperstein packed his half into his car and began touring as the Harlem Globetrotters. On a cold January night in 1927, the team played its first contest before 300 fans at a small gym in Hinckley.

That event was commemorated Wednesday with a celebration at Taylor's Tap, followed by a game at the local high school between the Globies and their ever-present competition, the Generals.

But in 1927, the Globetrotters didn't carry their own patsies.

They played local all-star teams five nights most weeks, nearly every week of the year, and their share of the gate could sometimes reach \$75. Once in Chicago, the gate was so meagre the Globies made a total of \$55.

To help fill up the small gyms and save the wear and tear on his ballplayers' legs, Saperstein devised a slow-down style of play that placed a premium on ballhandling and trick-shot artistry.

The clowning tactics were a bit, and by 1939, the Globetrotters received their first invitation to play on foreign soil — in Mexico.

Tours before U.S. servicemen, during World War II heightened the Globies appeal and by the early 1950s, the team was playing 340 games a year all over the world.

The most famous of the Globetrotters — Goose Tatum,

Meadowlark Lemon, Sweetwater Clifton, Inman Jackson, Josh Grider and Haynes — became household names and their theme song, "Sweet Georgia Brown," as recognizable to foreign audiences as the American anthem.

At home, the Globetrotters sometimes played before all-white audiences during the day and before black audiences at night. They couldn't get served at some restaurants, at others they ordered meals from the back doors of restaurants.

The team now is owned by International Broadcasting Corp., which bought the team and the Ice Capades for \$30 million last year from another conglomerate, Metromedia Inc.

Two women, Lynette Woodard and Jackie White, are on the team. The 340-games-per-year and the barnstorming by bus are things of the past, though the Globies

still maintain a hectic pace. Of the 168 games they will play this year, 68 will be in Europe.

"All we had in the old days was an old army carryall (bus) with a bare metal roof that didn't have any insulation in it," Haynes recalled. "In the wintertime, icicles formed, and we had to keep them broken off so they didn't stick in our heads if we hit a bump."

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Chinese daily launches fierce attack on party 'Capitalists'

PEKING (R) — China Friday launched a blistering attack on Communist Party members it accused of advocating Capitalism, some of whom Western diplomats said have been expelled for their role in a month of student protest.

The official Guangming Daily said "certain party members" had exaggerated the imperfections of the present Socialist system and ignored the fact that the party was leading the people gradually to perfect the system.

"The purpose of these people is to sabotage our efforts to build a Socialist system and lead China toward Capitalism," it said in a front-page editorial.

The editorial said recent demonstrations by a small number of students in several cities were a serious matter, showing the spread of bourgeois liberalism. A Western diplomat said it was likely the editorial was linked to the expulsion from the party of those it believed had encouraged

the students to take to the streets, including Fang Lizhi, vice-president of the China University of Science and Technology in Hefei, scene of the first protest.

Students on at least 12 campuses across China held demonstrations calling for democracy and freedom of the press and publication.

One Peking student said Fang and other academics had inspired students with their ideas during nationwide lectures but that the demonstrations were organised by students alone.

"The official media are very dull and do not inspire us. Fang and others did," he said.

Wall posters appeared in

Peking campuses describing Fang as "China's Sakharov" — a reference to dissident Soviet physicist Andrei Sakharov who was long in internal exile — and saying that if there were an election he would be chosen as vice-premier or an even higher post.

Fang told Reuters last month that everyone, including the leadership, agreed that China should be more democratic.

"The question in how to do it," he said. "It will take time. The process should be gradual. We should ask for things that are possible."

The diplomat said Fang appeared to be a victim of events. "There has been a conservative backlash since the end of December, of which today's editorial is an example," he said.

"But since the reformers are still in overall command, a lower-level reformer has been sacrificed and not a high-level one."

African students boycott classes

Meanwhile African students in Peking boycotted classes Friday and representatives met with Chinese officials to demand a public apology for a letter containing racial slurs that was circulated on campuses.

More than 200 African students and a few students from other countries staged a 20-kilometre march through Peking on Thursday to protest the letter and demand that officials guarantee their safety in China.

Student representatives met with officials from the State Education Commission Friday morning and planned to meet in the afternoon with officials from the All-China Students Federation, student sources said.

An official at the State Education Commission said no one was available to provide information about the meeting.

State Department knew about contra bank account

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. State Department officials knew as early as last summer about a secret Swiss bank account set up to funnel money to the Nicaragua contra rebels, the department has admitted.

It also said that for several months there was considerable confusion over whether \$10 million solicited from an Asian country for the contras had been put into the account.

On Wednesday, Secretary of State George Shultz said "it is a mystery just what happened to that money."

The department did not explain why officials — who say it was legal to solicit the contribution — used the secret account set up by the White House.

Its comments Thursday were intended to elaborate on Mr. Shultz's statement.

The Sultan of Brunei, an oil-rich country in South East Asia that has been seeking closer ties with the United States made the contribution to the contras at the behest of the State Department.

The United States is supporting the contras in their war against the Soviet-backed government of Nicaragua.

The officials, speaking on condition they not be named, said Lt. Col Oliver North, the White House aide who has become the central figure in the Iran-contra funding scandal, provided the State Department with the number of a Swiss account to which the contributions should be sent.

The officials have said that although Congress had prohibited overt military aid to the contras by the United States, there was nothing illegal about asking other countries to contribute funds for humanitarian assistance.

Mr. Shultz told reporters

travelling with him in Africa Wednesday that the department had tried to track the contribution "because we wanted to see that it would be used for the humanitarian purposes for which it was raised."

State Department spokeswoman Phyllis Oakley said Thursday that the department "checked several times with the U.S. officials who had suggested the use of a Swiss bank account."

Each time they reported that the funds (from Brunei) had not been deposited into the designated account.

A source close to the Iran-contra investigation identified one of the "officials" as Col. North.

Mrs. Oakley said that on Sept. 26 the department again asked Brunei if it had made the contribution "and they said that the money was on its way, but would take some time to reach Switzerland."

After the Iran-contra affair was publicly revealed in November, the State Department told the FBI about the Brunei money problem, she said. She said Brunei then said it had transferred the money to the account on Aug. 19.

"In light of this revelation, we immediately sought the assistance of the Swiss government to freeze the account and all related accounts, to which the Swiss responded positively," Mrs. Oakley said.

Mrs. Oakley said she could not explain why the Bruneians said in late September the money was still on the way, but said in December it had been transferred in August.

She said the State Department will cooperate in an investigation into the Iran-contra affair, "including providing assistance in seeking the cooperation of the Swiss government."

Reagan to resume work next week

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan, back at the White House after being hospitalised for prostate surgery and cancer tests, is expected to resume a limited schedule next week and grapple with headlines like the Iran crisis.

Mr. Reagan faces such daunting problems as how to deal with various inquiries into the secret sale of arms to Tehran and the diversion of profits to U.S.-backed Nicaraguan rebels.

He must also deal with

congressional opposition to his new \$1.02 trillion budget and decide whether to replace Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Director William Casey, now recuperating from surgery to remove a cancerous brain tumour.

Mr. Reagan, 76 next month and the oldest president in U.S. history, Thursday left Bethesda Naval Medical Centre with a clean bill of health four days after he was admitted for his semi-annual cancer checkup and an operation

to relieve urinary discomfort caused by an enlarged prostate gland.

White House spokesman Larry Speakes said Mr. Reagan would spend the remainder of this week recuperating in the White House living quarters and resume a "limited but progressive" work schedule next week.

"He will play it by ear as to when he feels comfortable coming back," said Mr. Speakes.

Key witness in Puerto Rican fire hospitalised

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — An employee at the Dupont Plaza Hotel in San Juan, Puerto Rico, has told federal investigators she saw who set the New Year's Eve fire that killed 96 people and injured 140, the Washington Times reported Friday.

The employee, identified as Ingrid Velazquez, a croupier in the hotel's second floor casino, is under heavy guard at the industrial hospital in San Juan, where she is recovering from broken bones and other injuries suffered in the blaze, the Times reported.

Federal and local law enforcement authorities declined to discuss Ms. Velazquez. But Dr. Jose A. Rivera, medical director of the hospital, was quoted as saying Ms. Velazquez had given authorities "important information" about the fire and was being prepared to be moved to an undisclosed location in the United States as "means of security."

"We are making all the arrangements for her to leave Puerto Rico," Dr. Rivera was quoted as saying Thursday.

Approximately 86 of the 96 people who died in the hotel fire were in the casino, a Puerto Rican government official said Thursday.

Dr. Pio Rechani, director of the Institute of Forensic Medicine, said that many of the corpses were found piled up near the casino's side door, which leads towards the hotel's terrace swimming pool.

The groups are seeking indictments against 650 people whose identities are known. They are also asking the courts to determine the identities of 247 other suspects known only by nicknames and indict them.

The cases stem from the abduction, torture and disappearance of at least 9,000 people during a campaign against leftists in the late 1970s, when a rightist military junta ruled.

A controversial law approved in late December by the government of President Raul Alfonsín set a 60-day deadline for new indictments related to the campaign, called "the dirty war."

Anyone not indicted by the deadline will be free from any future charges.

The human rights groups presented a 16-page petition to the country's top military tribunal, the Armed Forces Supreme Council, and to the nine federal appeals courts around the country, said human rights leader Emilio Mignone.

The supreme council has jurisdiction over most of the human rights abuse cases.

Canada seeks to curb abuse of refugee policy

TORONTO (AP) — The government on Thursday announced new measures aimed at curbing abuse of Canada's open-door refugee policy by imposters and immigration racketeers.

Immigration Minister Benoit Bouchard told a news conference in Montreal that travellers from Turkey, Gambia, Sierra Leone, Tanzania and Mauritius will have to acquire entry visas before they can visit Canada, effective immediately.

"We also said Canada's immigration policy will be revised this year to tighten the automatic-entry system for refugees."

The changes mean that Canada will now require entry visas from 98 countries. Canada does not require the documents from visitors from the United States and most of Western Europe.

Portugal was added to the visa list last year to halt the flow of Portuguese immigrants who falsely claimed to be Jehovah's Witnesses suffering religious

persecution.

After admitting about 100,000 immigrants last year, not counting about 10,000 refugees still in a dilemma.

On the one hand, it faces a steady decline in the 25-million population of the world's second-most spacious country unless new settlers are welcomed.

For that reason, Canada sets generous quotas and courts entrepreneurs such as Hong Kong Chinese. Official statistics show that immigrant men earn nearly 12 percent more than native-born Canadians.

But conservative Prime Minister Brian Mulroney's government has run into a public backlash over abuse of the system by immigrants from Third World nations who scrape together the money for a one-way ticket and gain automatic admission when they claim refugee status.

Some immigration agents have advised their clients, who often use cheap East Bloc airlines, what to say when they land in Canada.

S. Korean dissidents set to heal opposition split

SEOUL (R) — Dissidents Kim Dae-Jung and Kim Young-Sam appeared set to end a serious split in South Korea's main opposition party over their accusation that the party's president lacked leadership.

The Kims, the real power behind the New Korea Democratic Party (NKDP), visited party President Lee Min-Woo for conciliation talks.

The two want him to stay in the post, their aides said.

Mr. Lee offered to resign on Wednesday when the two publicly criticised him, accusing him of mismanaging the party's fight for direct presidential elections as a prelude to full democracy.

On Thursday, eight senior

opposition members of parliament backed Mr. Lee.

News of divisions in the NKDP came to a head last month when Mr. Lee hinted it could consider a constitutional proposal for the country proposed by the ruling Democratic Justice Party (DJP) for a parliamentary government.

President Chun Doo Hwan allowed greater democracy.

The NKDP had earlier called the DJP proposal a scheme to perpetuate "military dictatorship" and said only direct presidential voting would ensure full democracy in South Korea.

At present, the country's president is chosen by an Electoral College of about 5,300 people.

Spain to begin biggest ever trial on March 30

MADRID, Spain (AP) — Thirty-nine people are to stand trial on March 30, nearly six years after the first of 584 victims died from consuming toxic cooking oil, in the biggest court proceeding in Spanish history.

A total of 41 people have been charged with public health violations resulting in death and serious injury, but only 39 will stand trial because two are fugitives from justice. The 39 defendants are free on bail.

The first death, from what became known as the "toxic syndrome" occurred May 1, 1981. The trial date was announced late Thursday by the Second Section of the Audiencia Nacional, the court hearing the case.

The prosecution is seeking a total of 106,000 years in prison for

the accused, but under Spanish law, despite the number of counts against a defendant, the total sentence handed down by the presiding judge cannot exceed 30 years per person.

The prosecution is also seeking the equivalent of \$600,000 in damages for each of several hundred people left seriously impaired after consuming adulterated rapeseed oil passed off as bargain olive oil in working class neighbourhoods outside the Spanish capital.

The Ministry of Health estimates some 20,000 people became ill from consuming the toxic cooking oil.

There are no government officials among the defendants, primarily businessmen.

Argentine group seeks indictments against 650 officials

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — Human rights groups facing a 60-day deadline asked the courts Thursday to indict hundreds of military and police officials accused of human rights abuses under the former military dictatorship.

The groups are seeking indictments against 650 people whose identities are known. They are also asking the courts to determine the identities of 247 other suspects known only by nicknames and indict them.

The cases stem from the abduction, torture and disappearance of at least 9,000 people during a campaign against leftists in the late 1970s, when a rightist military junta ruled.

A controversial law approved in late December by the government of President Raul Alfonsín set a 60-day deadline for new indictments related to the campaign, called "the dirty war."

Anyone not indicted by the deadline will be free from any future charges.

The human rights groups presented a 16-page petition to the country's top military tribunal, the Armed Forces Supreme Council, and to the nine federal appeals courts around the country, said human rights leader Emilio Mignone.

The supreme council has jurisdiction over most of the human rights abuse cases.

Kremlin anti-corruption drive hits KGB

MOSCOW (R) — The chief of the KGB, the Soviet security police, announced the dismissal of a senior officer in a move extending the Kremlin's anti-corruption campaign to the powerful state agency.

Viktor Chebrikov, KGB chairman since December 1982 and a full member of the ruling politburo, said the head of a KGB department in the Ukraine had been sacked for the illegal arrest

of a reporter who exposed local abuse of power.

His statement appeared on the front page of the Communist Party newspaper Pravda, an event unprecedented since the execution of Josef Stalin's security police chief Lavrenty Beria after the death of the Kremlin dictator in 1953.

Chebrikov said KGB officer A. Dichenko had been fired in connection with a Pravda report

on Sunday identifying him as the "coordinator" in the arrest of reporter Viktor Berkhin on hoiticism charges in Voroshilovgrad last July.

He said Ukrainian KGB Chief Stepan, Mukha had been ordered to discipline other KGB officers involved in the Berkhin case, and announced that the KGB was taking further measures to ensure strict observance of the law by state security organs.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
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TAKE THE ONLY CHANCE

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH

♠ K 6

♥ A 2

♦ A 8 6 5 4

♣ A K 6 5

WEST

♠ 10 9 8 3 2

♥ 4 7

♦ K 10 7

♣ J 8 6 5 4 3

SOUTH

♠ Q 5 4

♥ Q 9

♦ J 10 9 7

♣ J 9 3 2

The bidding:

North East South West

1 ♠ Pass 1 NT 2 ♠

3 NT Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Ten of ♠

There are many hands where you have no guaranteed line of play. Indeed, on some your only hope is in a line which is considerably against the odds. All you can do is hope for the best.

North upgraded his king of spades, since the ace was marked with West. Rather than try for an 11-trick contract, he chose to gamble on three no trumps.

West led the top of his interior sequence in spades, declarer correctly played the king from dummy and East unblocked the jack. The

outlook for nine tricks was anything but rosy. There were two legitimate chances for the contract.

One was that West held the king-queen of diamonds. The other was that he held a doubleton queen of clubs and the king of diamonds. Obviously, if East ever gained the lead, a spade through the queen would doom South's contract. It would not help to find split honors in diamonds, for West could always unblock under the ace of diamonds to make sure that East won their side's trick in the suit.

It was essential to combine these lines, and to do so in the right order. It would be fatal to cash the ace of diamonds first, because of the unblock. Declarer cashed the ace-king of clubs, and when West obligingly dropped the queen, the contract was halfway home.

Declarer came to hand with the king of clubs and led the jack of diamonds. If he refused to play the king, declarer would rise with the table's ace and then return a diamond, forcing West to win the trick and in the process setting up the long diamonds. With West on lead, the queen of spades was safe from attack and the contract was secure.

OAS backs new Central American peace initiative

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Organisation of American States (OAS), with a reluctant nod from the United States, is backing a new diplomatic mission aimed at ending the conflict in Central America.

The U.S. administration has been cool to the initiative because of what Assistant Secretary of State Elliott Abrams called "a danger of unwise compromises" which could undermine the U.S.-backed contra guerrillas in their fight with Nicaragua's government.

The permanent council of the OAS met in extraordinary session Thursday at the request of U.S. Ambassador Richard T. McCormack to hear an explanation from the organisation's secretary general, Jose Baena Soares, of his role in arranging the diplomatic offensive.

Mr. Baena, along with U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar and the foreign ministers of eight Latin American nations, are slated to travel Jan. 17-20 to five Central American nations: El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Costa Rica and Nicaragua.

Meanwhile, Costa Rican Foreign Minister Rodrigo Fariñas denied Thursday that his unannounced meeting the day before with Mr. Abrams was intended to undercut the peace

initiative.

He said in San Jose, Costa Rica that he discussed "nothing new" with the U.S. officials and merely repeated his government's desire to reach "a diplomatic, negotiated, political, non-violent solution" to the problems of Central America.

Contra leaders on Wednesday endorsed the Central American peace initiative and also brushed aside suggestions that the talks between Mr. Abrams and Mr. Madrigal might undercut the guerrillas in their struggle against the Sandinista government.

The New York Times reported Friday that the first group of contra rebel commanders trained in Florida by the United States military has returned to Central America and that training of a second group has already begun.

At least 67 commanders from five guerrilla groups representing all fronts in the growing war were trained for two months at a secret military site in Florida, the Times quoted rebel officials as saying.

Four of the foreign ministers involved in the diplomatic offensive are from the nations which four years ago launched the Contadora peace initiative — Mexico, Panama, Venezuela and Colombia — and the other four are from the so-called Contadora Support Group: Argentina, Brazil, Peru and Uruguay.

The Nicaraguan representative to the OAS, Carlos Tunnerman, warmly supported the latest Contadora initiative, and shrugged off blistering criticism of his nation by Mr. McCormack.

"We are not going to be drawn into a polemic, because we want to create an environment that will help the success of the mission," Mr. Tunnerman said.

Although Mr. McCormack expressed "good wishes" to the Contadora mission, the administration is sending special presidential envoy Philip Habib to lobby for what another official called "balance" in any possible peace agreement.

"We have always been concerned that the Contadora nations seem to put more pressure on the Central American democracies than they do on the Sandinistas," said a State Department official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Mr. Habib will travel next week to El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Venezuela and Panama.

Although U.S. officials expressed hope for a negotiated end to the conflict, Mr. Abrams said military force against "the heavily armed Communist regime" in Managua was needed to produce peace talks.

"They have got to stop

aggression and subversion," he said. "They have got to democratise. That's the road to peace. The road to peace lies through democracy in Nicaragua."

"There is always a danger from Contadora of unwise compromises with the Sandinistas, an effort to sign anything as long as a peace treaty can be signed or something that calls itself a peace treaty," Mr. Abrams said.

At the OAS meeting, Mr. Baena said that his role in the Contadora mission "is of an individual nature" and did not carry the imprimatur of the entire organisation.

But, he added, "peace is set forth as a goal in the charter of this organisation. The secretary general cannot be sidelined from working for that process."

Representatives from 18 of the 31 member nations of the OAS spoke in favour of the peace initiative, although the representatives of Honduras, Guatemala, Costa Rica and other nations expressed concern over Nicaraguan human rights and foreign policies.

None were harsh as Mr. McCormack, who said, "the problem in Central America is Nicaragua. It is the one that is repressing the freedom of its people and committing aggressive acts against its neighbours."

COLUMNS 7 & 8

Ron Reagan refused entry to USSR

NEW YORK (R) — Soviet authorities have turned down a request by President Reagan's son Ron Jr to visit the country for a series of television broadcasts on Soviet life. "We are disappointed and hope the Soviets reconsider," a spokeswoman for the ABC Television Network said. She said Soviet television had refused a request by ABC for Reagan to tour the country as a correspondent for a series on Soviet life for the morning show Good Morning America. Reagan, 28, has visited the Soviet Union before and reported for Playboy magazine on his father's Geneva summit in November 1985 with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. "It would be interesting to see impressions of Soviet life through the eyes of our correspondent, who happens to be the president's son," said John Goodman, producer of Good Morning America. "As a former ballet dancer, he was going to look at the Bolshoi, of course," said Goodman. The visit would have taken Reagan to Moscow and Leningrad later this month. At the Soviet embassy in Washington, Press Consul Igor Bulay said the refusal came from Soviet television. No formal visa application was made by Reagan. "Maybe the time was not convenient for Soviet TV," said Bulay.

Stuntman killed during filming

HOBOKEN, New Jersey (AP) — A stuntman who drove a car into the Hudson River during filming of a movie died when he was injured in the crash and divers could not pull him out of the car, police said. The accident occurred at Pier A during filming of the movie "Skip Tracer" by Tri-Star Pictures, police said. The stuntman, Vic Magnotta, 43, drove the car up a ramp designed to make it flip sideways before landing in the river, across from midtown Manhattan, Kiely said. But the car flipped and landed on its roof, its windshield coming loose and wrapping around Magnotta. He could not be freed by divers who were waiting in the water. Magnotta was later pulled lifeless from the car, and was pronounced dead at St. Mary's Hospital.

Human cannonball lands in hospital

HONG KONG (R) — A human cannonball landed in hospital after he was shot from a circus cannon and missed his air cushion, circus officials have said. American Elvin Bale, 36, hit the concrete floor after flying 12 metres during a performance of the Chipperfield Circus. He was admitted to hospital in fair condition.

Beauty, bikinis cut out of pageant

LOS ANGELES (R) — Santa Monica, a Pacific coast playground for the sunworshippers of Los Angeles, announced that it has taken the beauty out of its annual beauty pageant. Organisers said entrants will not parade in swimsuits this year, men as well as women can take part, and the word "beauty" is banned. Instead, entrants to the newly-named "Ms. Santa Monica Pageant" next month will be judged on such accomplishments as community service and leadership and their goals and ambitions, a spokesman for the pageant, Dan Sowders, said. "Recognising someone based on physical attributes is no longer appropriate," he said. "We are trying to do something representative of the young women of the 1980s." An 80-year-old grandmother could win the pageant this year, said another pageant representative. Feminist lawyer Gloria Allred.

New findings reported in AIDS cases

BOSTON (R) — Homosexual men who have been exposed to the AIDS virus have a greater risk of developing the disease if their partners already have it, according to a study. Ironically, Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) also seems likely to appear if the blood shows lower levels of the virus, the report said. The nation-wide study, published in the New England Journal of Medicine, attempted to discover which homosexuals who have been exposed to the disease are likely to contract it and how fast AIDS develops. The study involved 1,835 homosexual men whose blood samples tested positive for the virus, which breaks down the body's natural immune system. After 15 months, 59 of the men had developed AIDS. When doctors examined the cases, they found that the 59 were more likely to have had sex with others who subsequently developed AIDS. This finding may not be important, the researchers said, "or it could reflect the possibility that some strains (of the virus) are more virulent than others."

Pakistan claims to be free of AIDS

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) — The government has claimed that Pakistan is completely free of the deadly Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS). Health Minister Ghulam Mohammad Khan Mahar made the statement in the National Assembly after a member called for discussion of press reports that AIDS has been detected in the country. The minister said the reports were wrong and Pakistan was free of AIDS. AIDS is a virus that attacks blood cells and breaks down the victim's immunity to infections. It enters the body via